

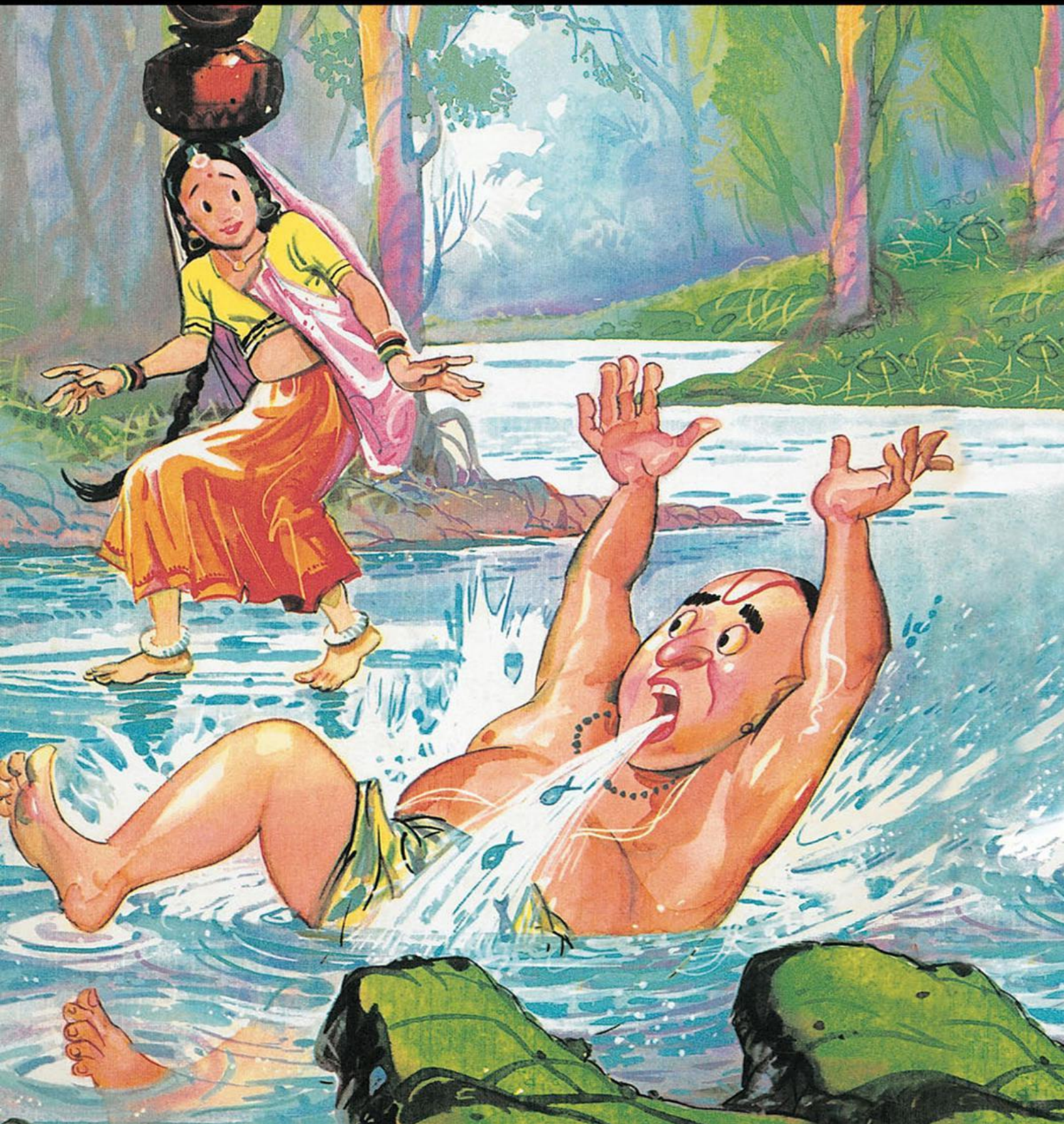


# THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID

TALES TOLD BY SRI RAMAKRISHNA

Vol 646

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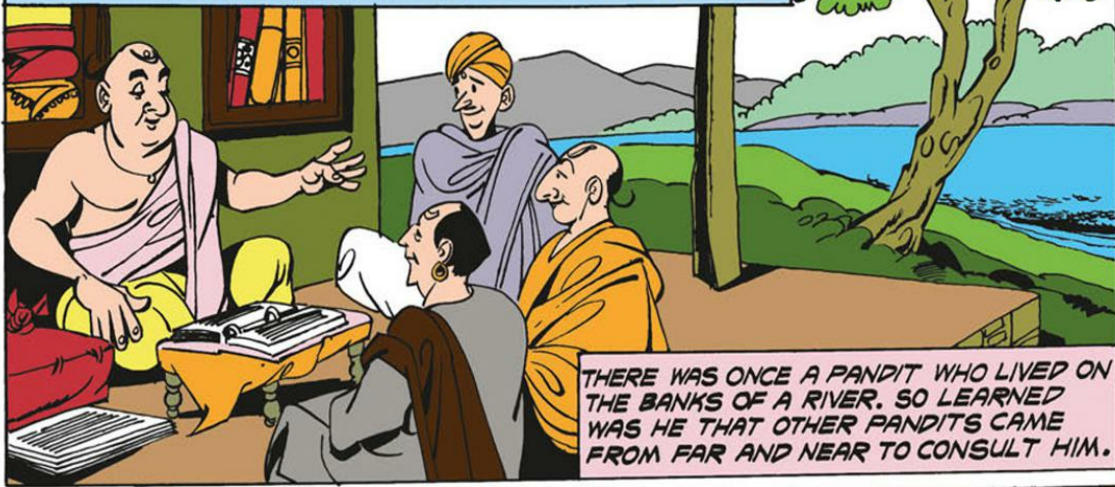
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**Editor**  
Anant Pai

## **Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd**

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Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., The Forum, 3rd Floor,  
Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, S.B.Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400 013. India  
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## THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID



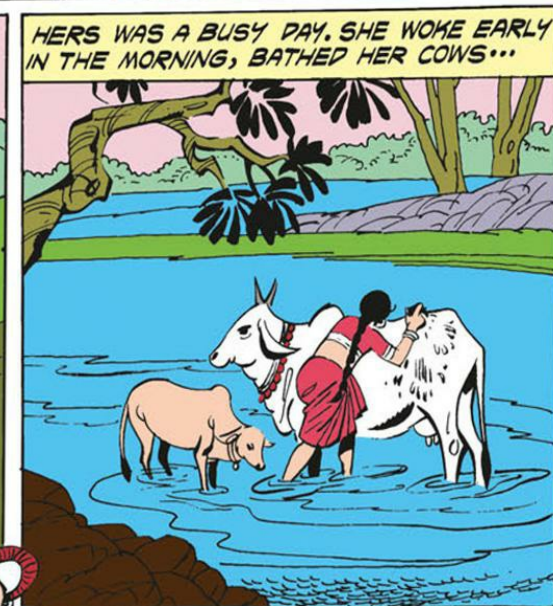
THERE WAS ONCE A PANDIT WHO LIVED ON THE BANKS OF A RIVER. SO LEARNED WAS HE THAT OTHER PANDITS CAME FROM FAR AND NEAR TO CONSULT HIM.



A GREATLY RESPECTED MAN INDEED WAS PANDITJI!

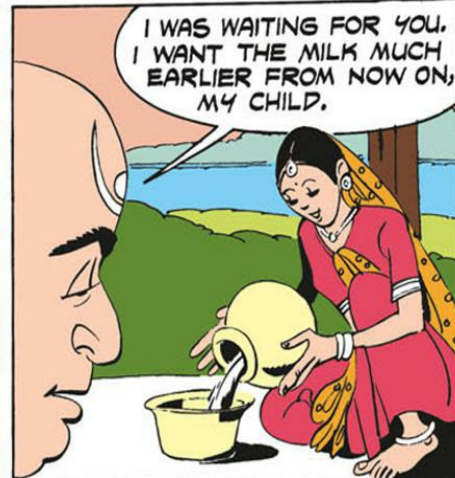
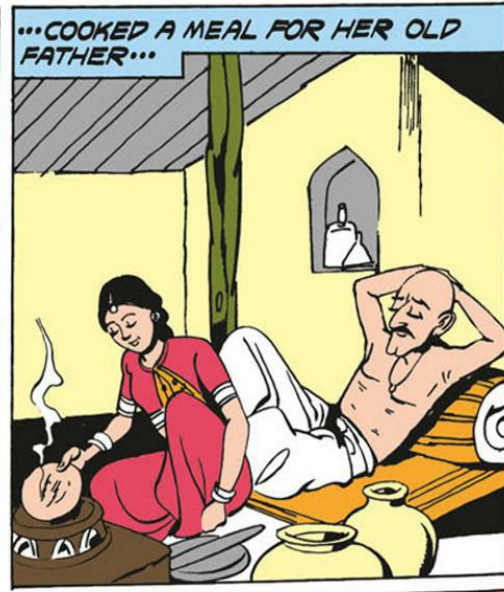
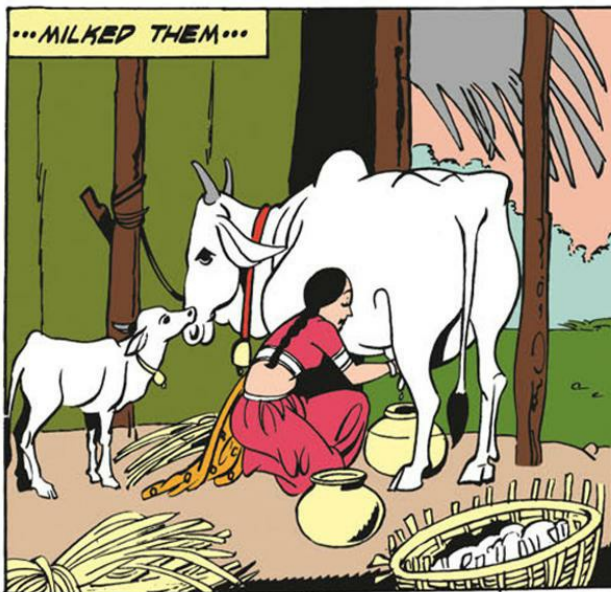


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, LIVED A MILKMAID CALLED LAKSHMI WHO SOLD MILK TO THE PANDIT.



HERS WAS A BUSY DAY. SHE WOKE EARLY IN THE MORNING, BATHED HER COWS...









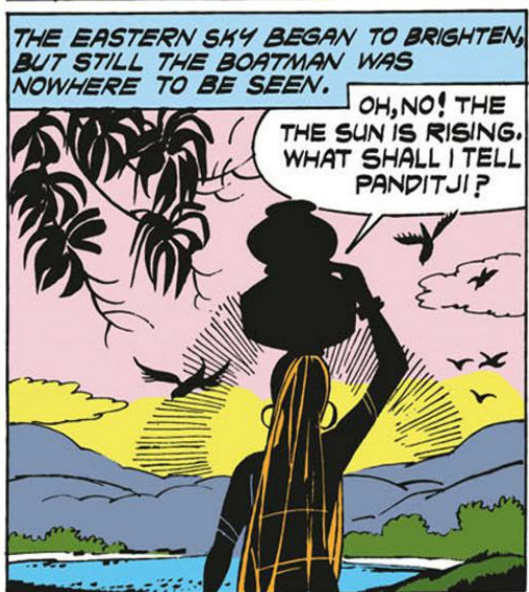
SEE TO IT  
THAT YOU COME  
BEFORE SUNRISE  
TOMORROW.

ALL RIGHT,  
PANDITJI.



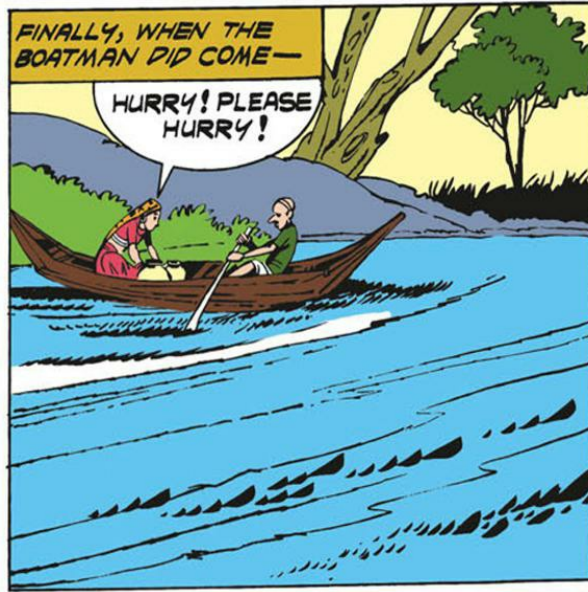
THE NEXT MORNING—

THE BOATMAN  
IS NOT HERE  
YET. I'LL HAVE  
TO WAIT.



THE EASTERN SKY BEGAN TO BRIGHTEN,  
BUT STILL THE BOATMAN WAS  
NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

OH, NO! THE  
THE SUN IS RISING.  
WHAT SHALL I TELL  
PANDITJI?



FINALLY, WHEN THE  
BOATMAN DID COME—

HURRY! PLEASE  
HURRY!



AND AT THE PANDIT'S —

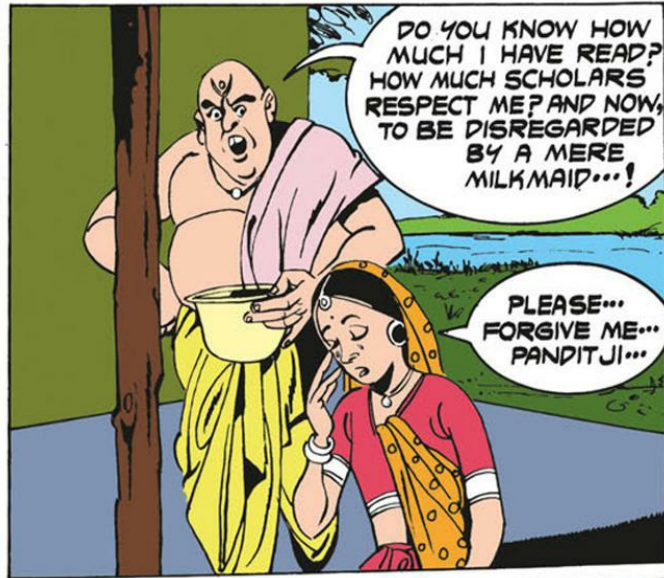
WELL, MY GIRL! YOU  
ARE LATE. WHAT  
HAPPENED?

PANDITJI,  
THE BOATMAN...  
THE BOAT...



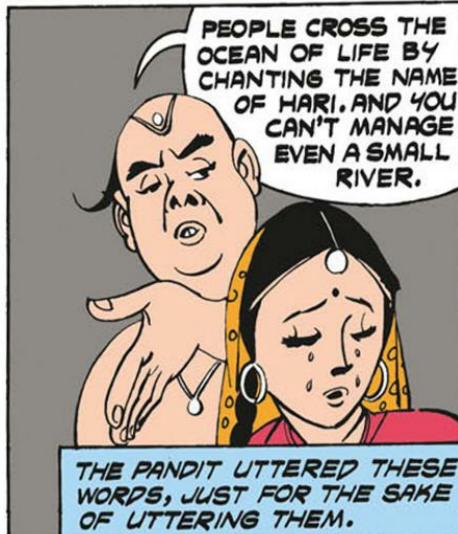
THE PANDIT WAS IN A BAD MOOD THAT DAY.

DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES! HOW DARE YOU DISREGARD MY WISHES! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



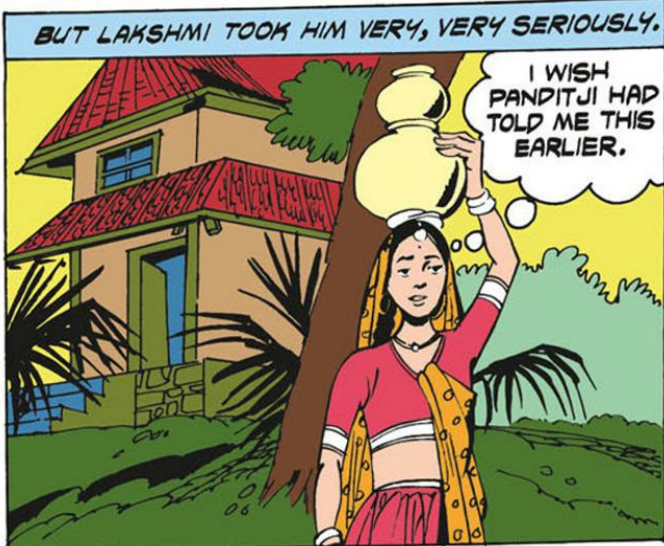
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE READ? HOW MUCH SCHOLARS RESPECT ME? AND NOW, TO BE DISREGARDED BY A MERE MILKMAID...!

PLEASE... FORGIVE ME... PANDITJI...



PEOPLE CROSS THE OCEAN OF LIFE BY CHANTING THE NAME OF HARI. AND YOU CAN'T MANAGE EVEN A SMALL RIVER.

THE PANDIT UTTERED THESE WORDS, JUST FOR THE SAKE OF UTTERING THEM.



BUT LAKSHMI TOOK HIM VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.

I WISH PANDITJI HAD TOLD ME THIS EARLIER.



THE NEXT DAY—

PANDITJI, SEE, I'VE COME EARLY.

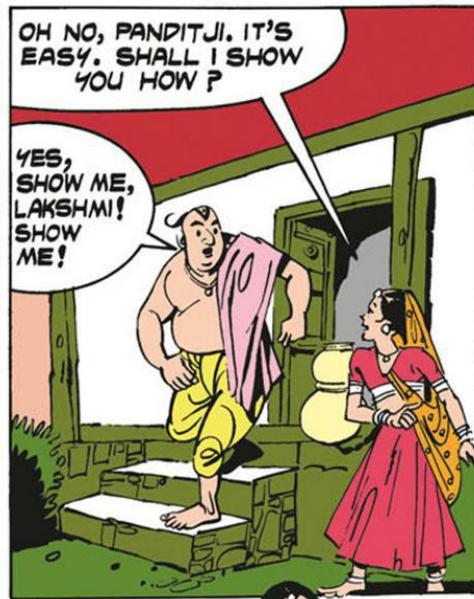
GOOD! BUT... I SEE NO BOAT! HOW DID YOU COME?



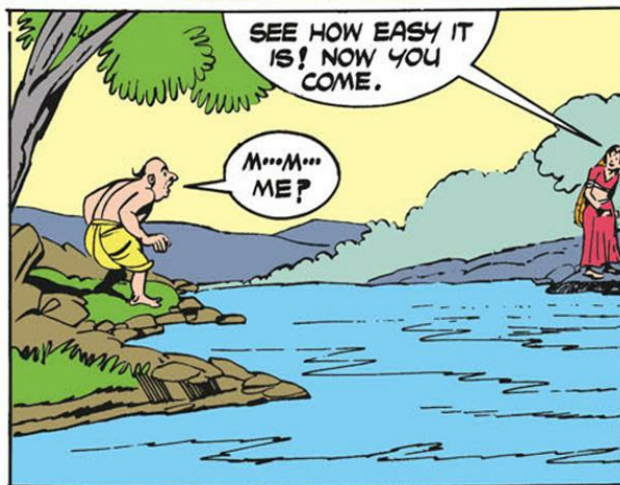
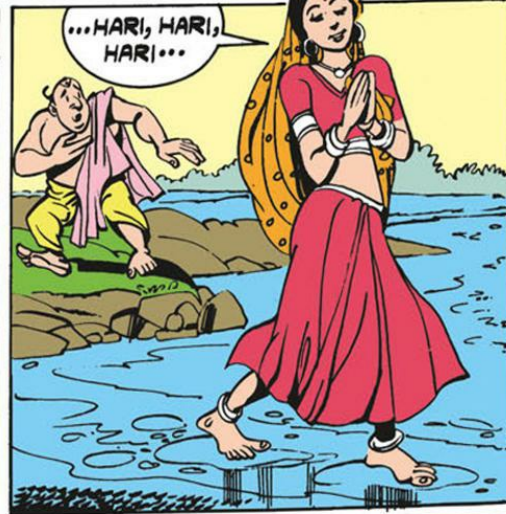
THE WAY YOU TOLD ME TO, PANDITJI.

THE WAY I TOLD YOU? WHAT WAY IS THAT?

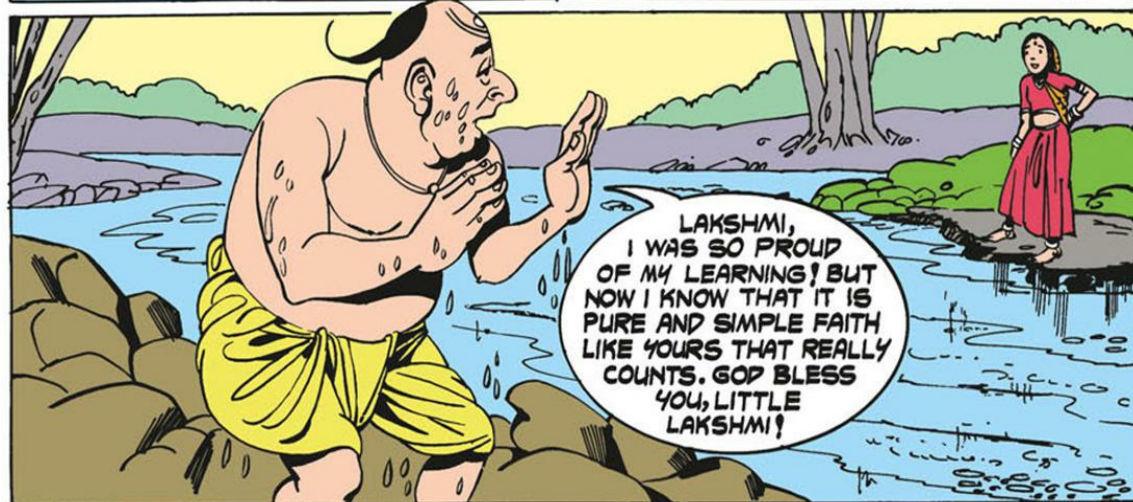
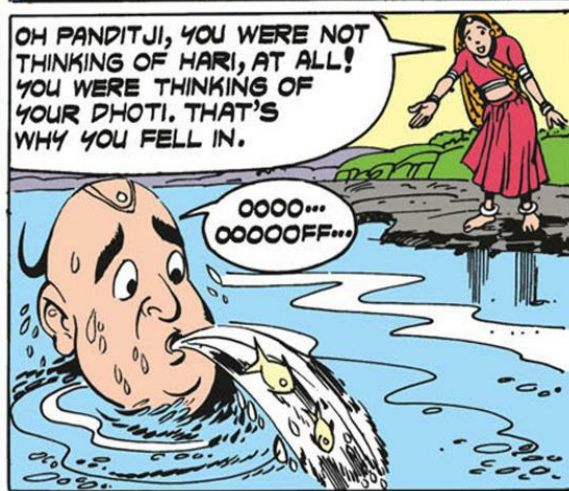




LAKSHMI LED THE PANDIT DOWN TO THE RIVER.

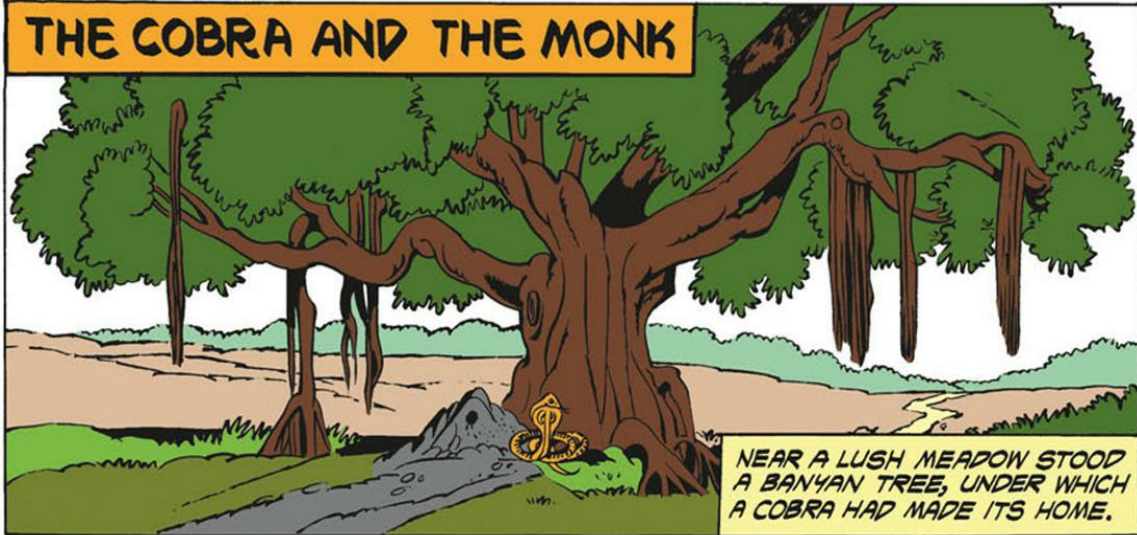








## THE COBRA AND THE MONK

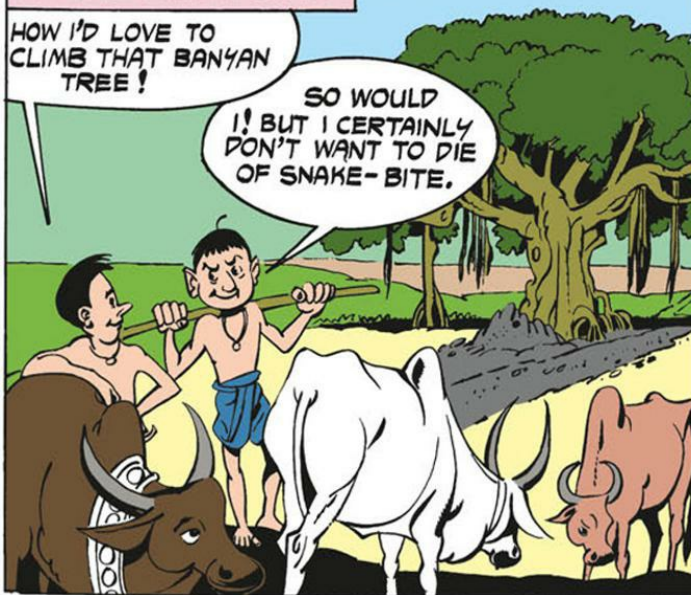


NEAR A LUSH MEADOW STOOD A BANYAN TREE, UNDER WHICH A COBRA HAD MADE ITS HOME.

COWHERDS OFTEN CAME THERE TO GRAZE THEIR COWS.

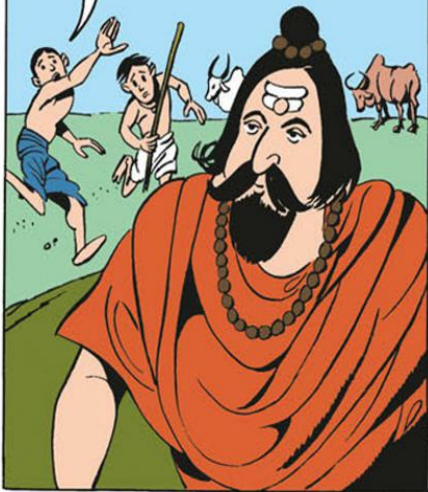
HOW I'D LOVE TO CLIMB THAT BANYAN TREE!

SO WOULD I! BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DIE OF SNAKE-BITE.



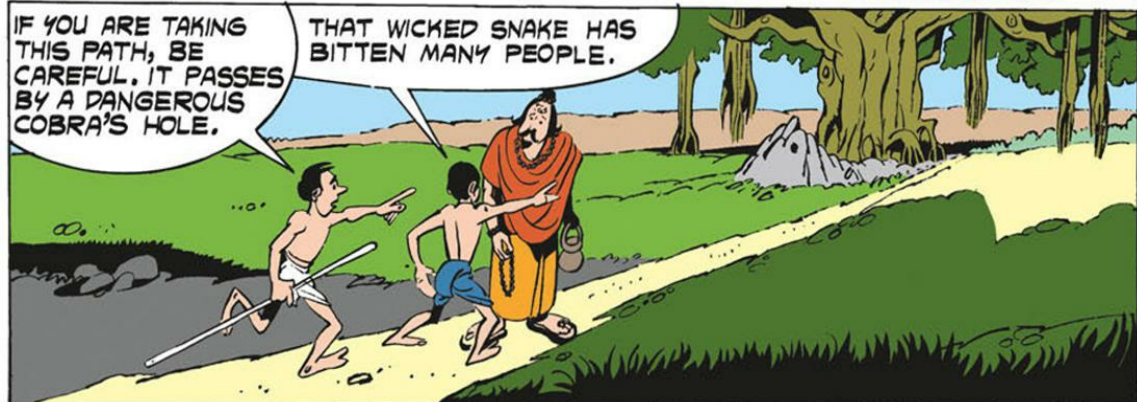
ONE DAY, A MONK PASSED THAT WAY.

WAIT, HOLY SIR.

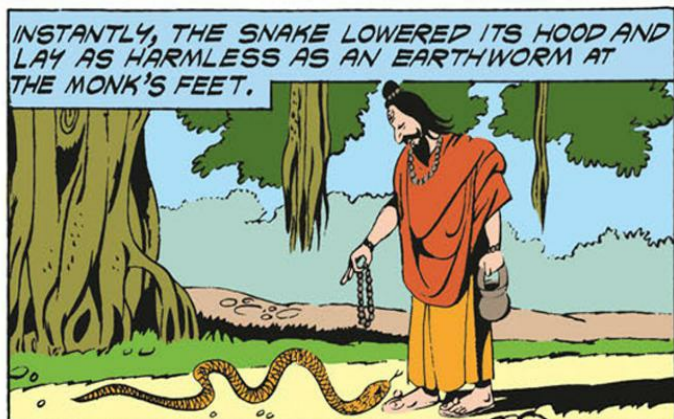
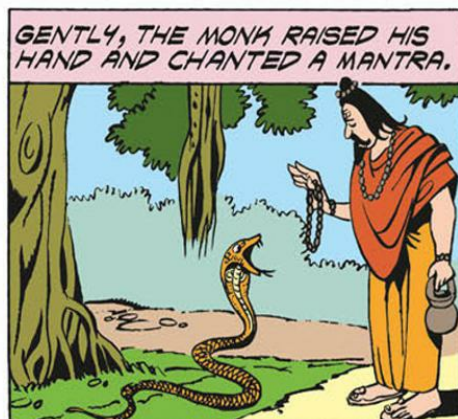
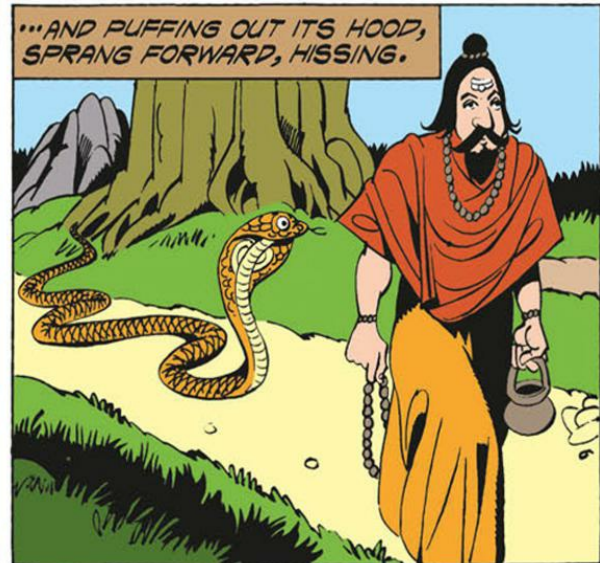
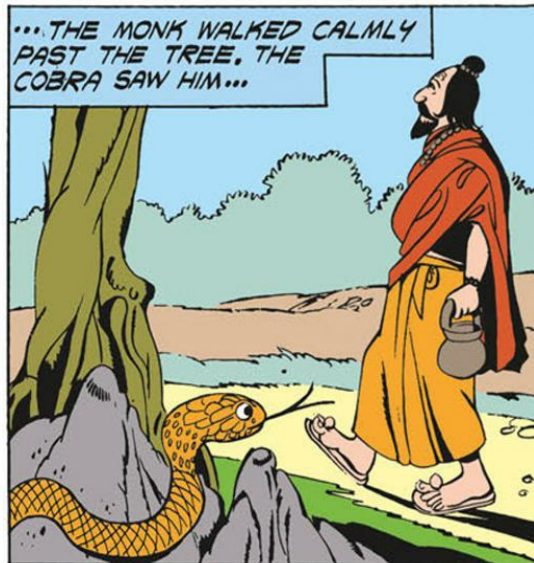
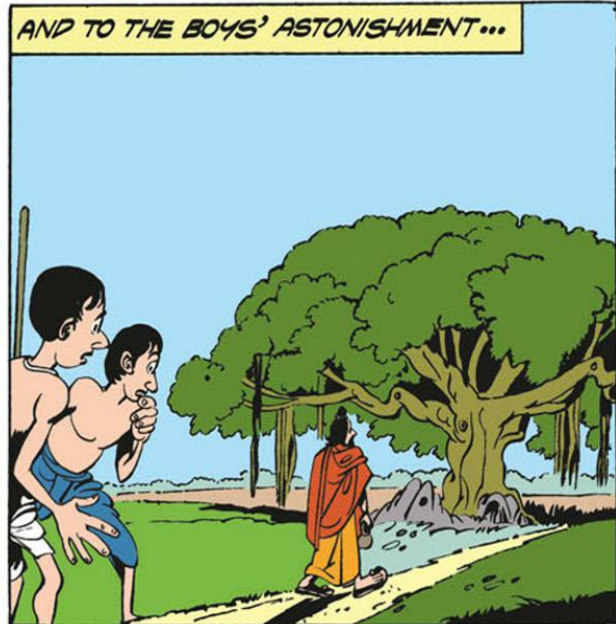
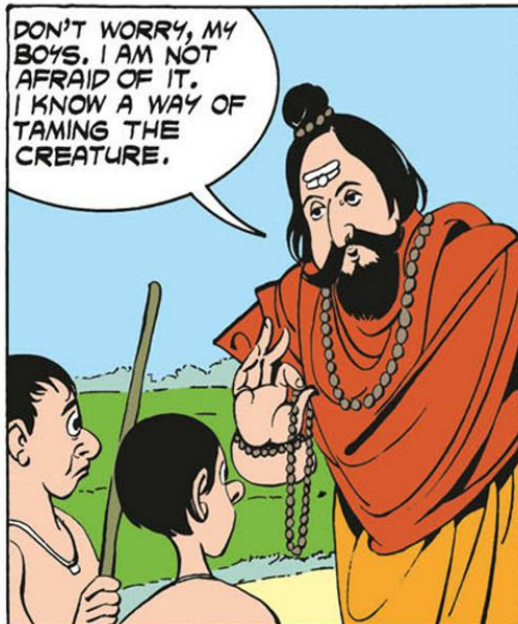


IF YOU ARE TAKING THIS PATH, BE CAREFUL. IT PASSES BY A DANGEROUS COBRA'S HOLE.

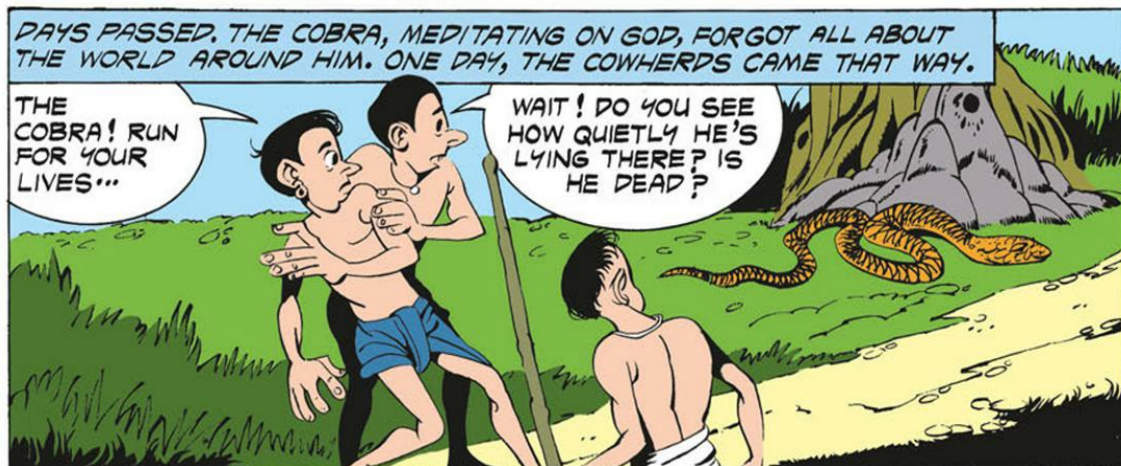
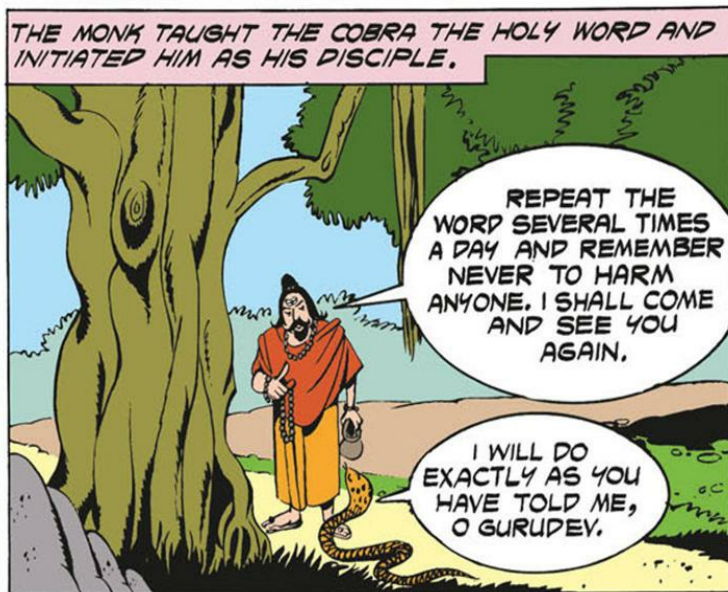
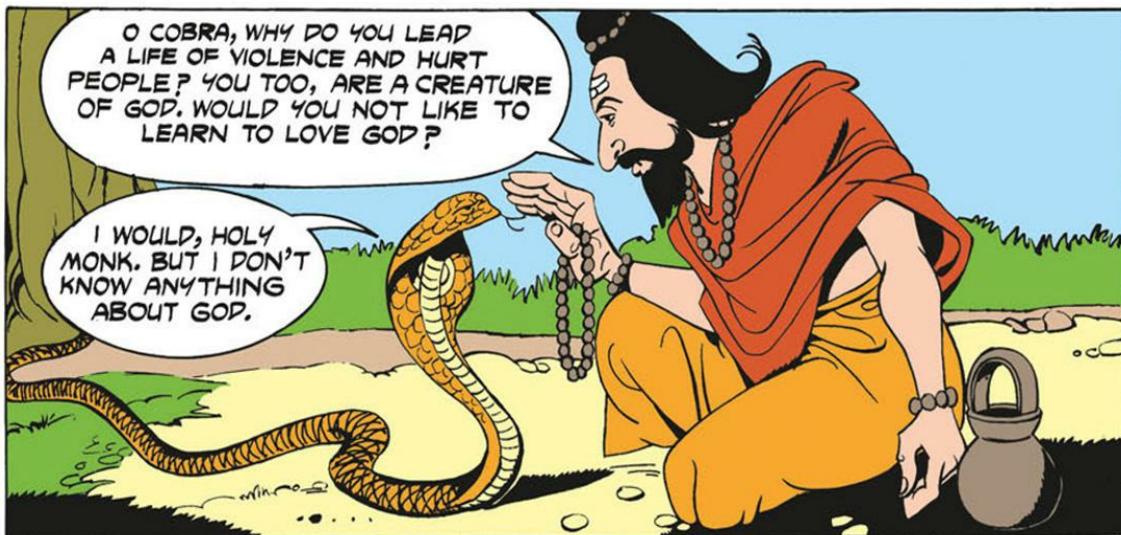
THAT WICKED SNAKE HAS BITTEN MANY PEOPLE.



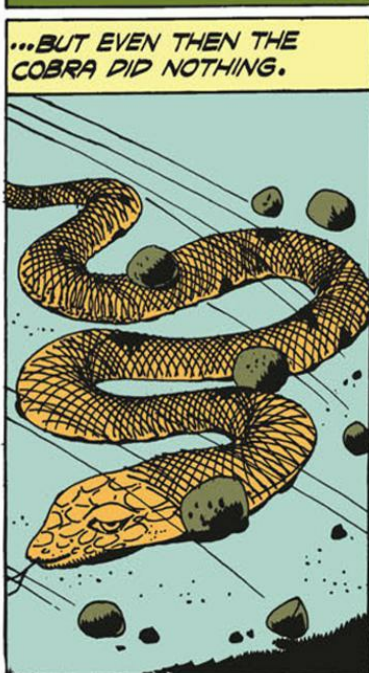
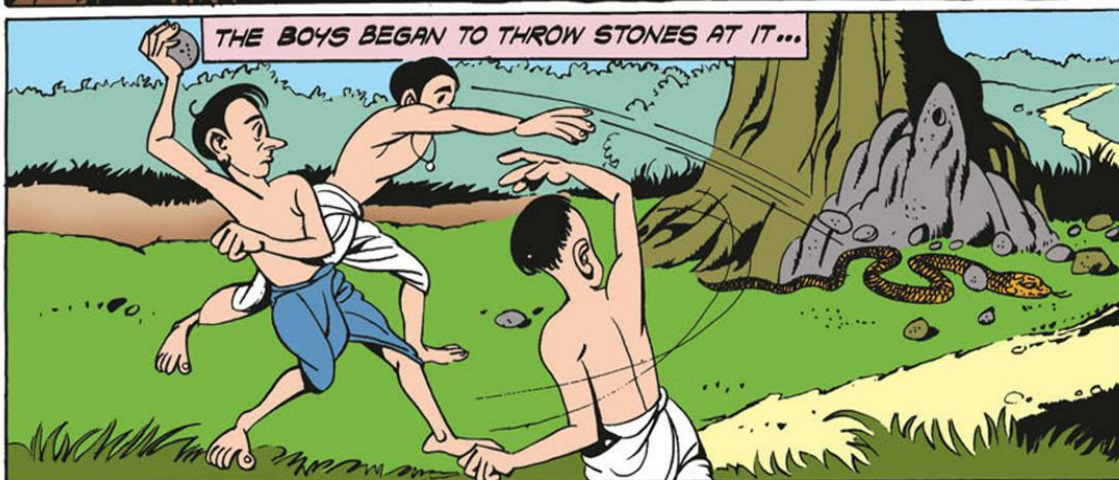
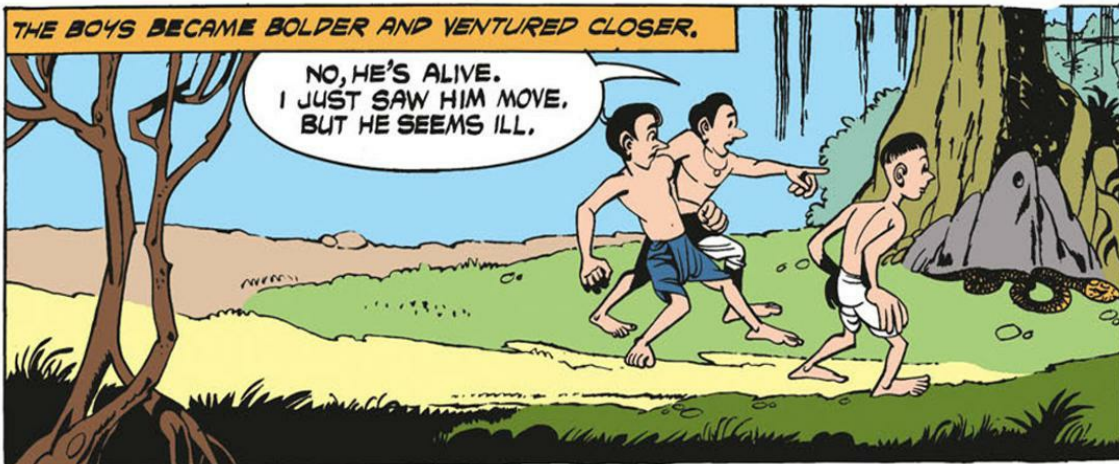










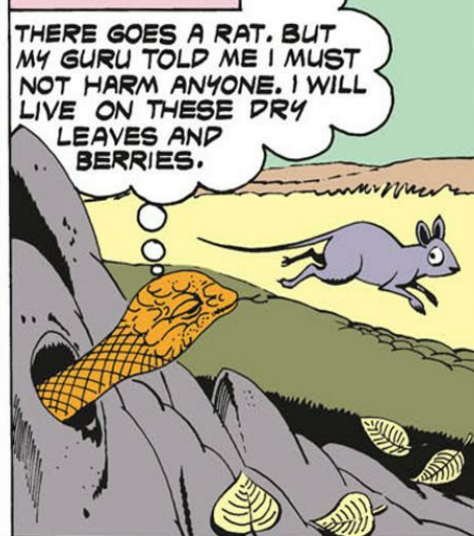




THAT NIGHT, IT SLOWLY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.



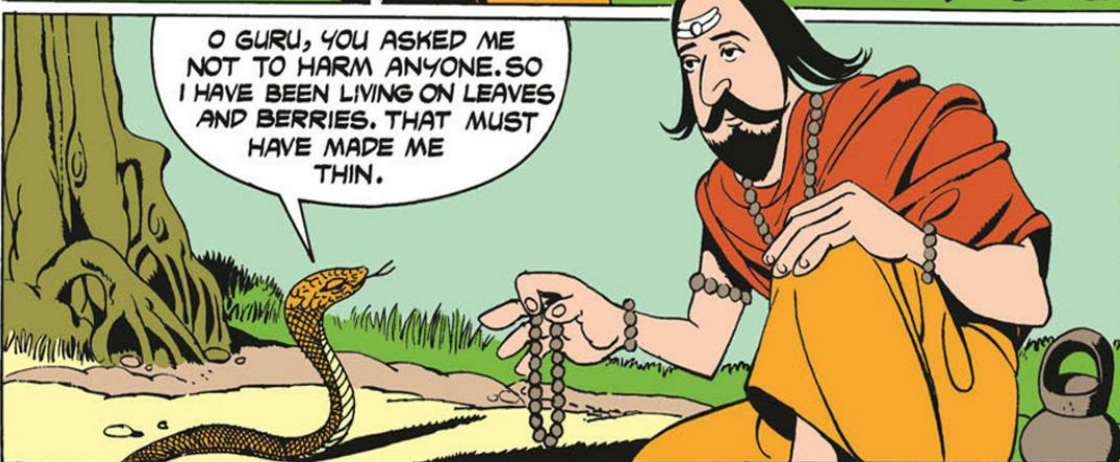
DRAGGING ITSELF PAINFULLY TO ITS HOLE, IT MANAGED TO LIVE ON SOMEHOW.



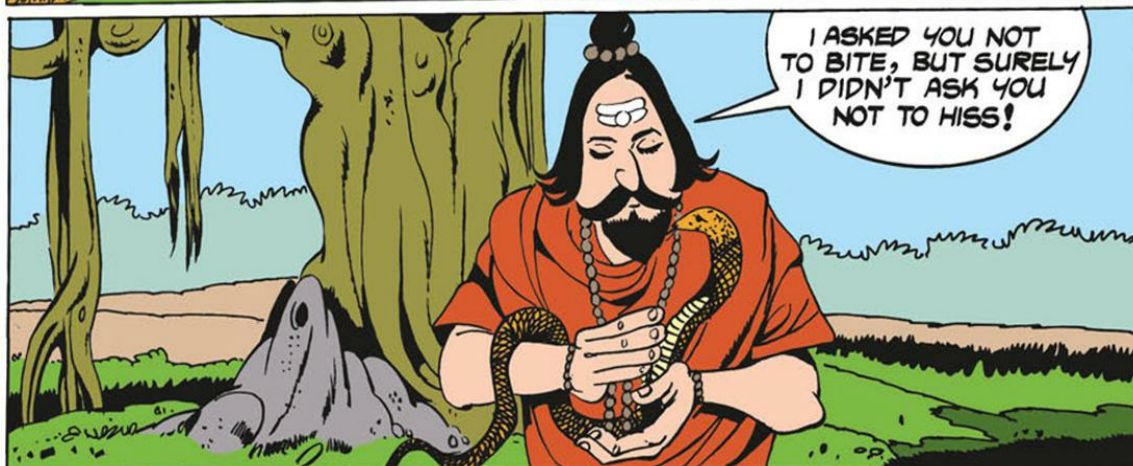
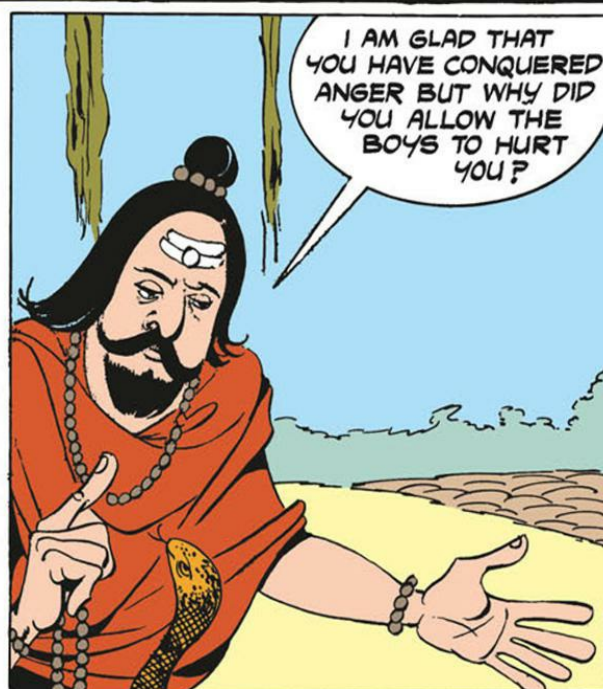
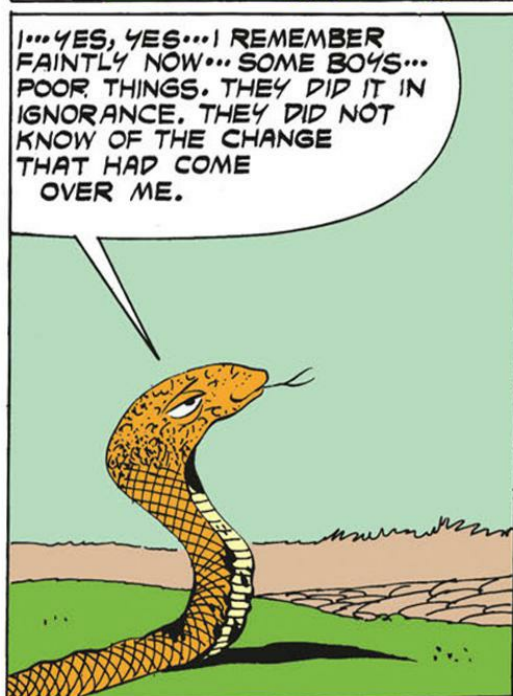
THE COBRA SOON BECAME THIN AND GAUNT.



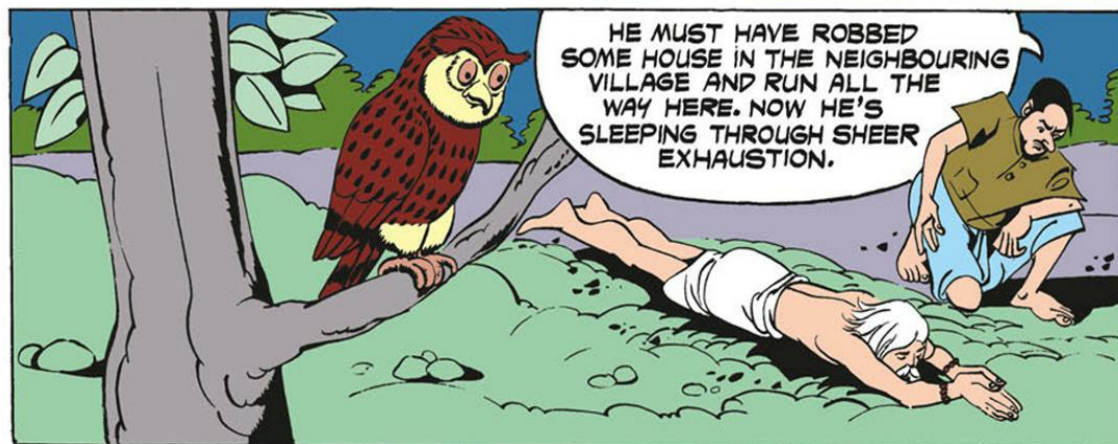
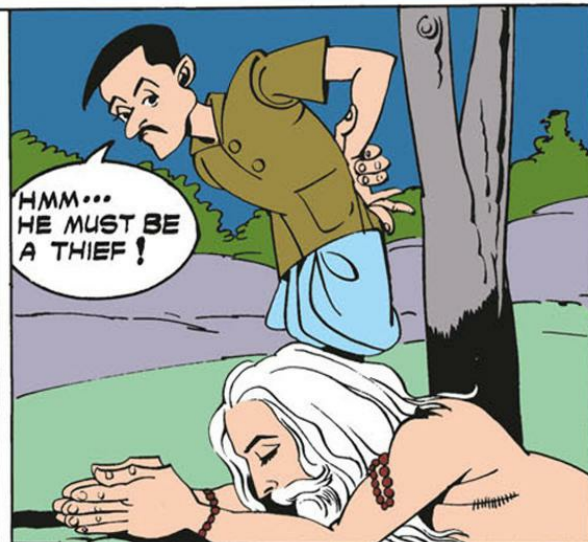
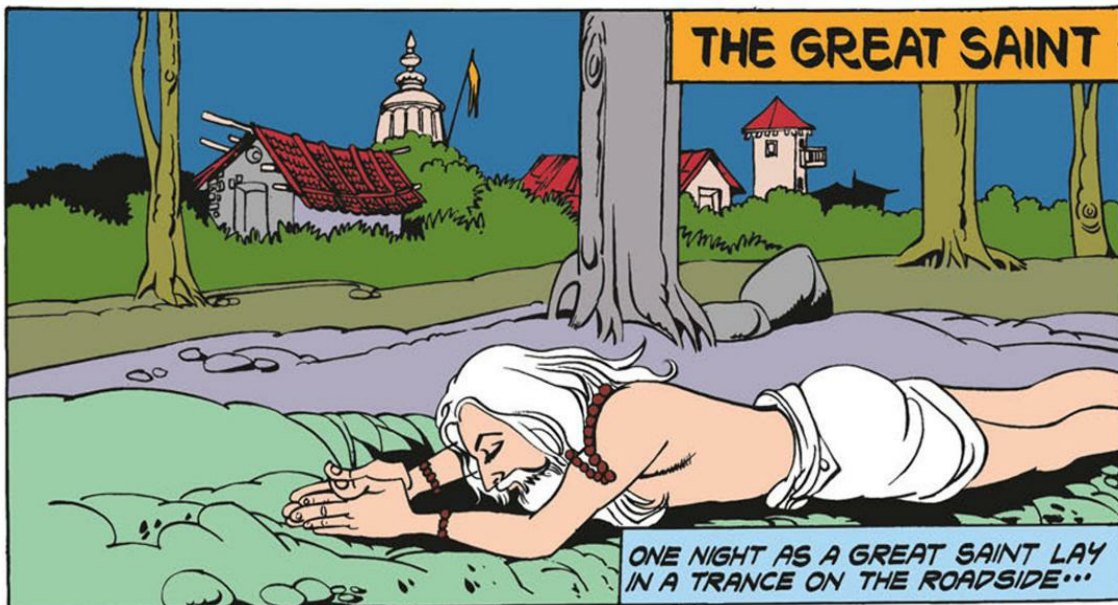
ONE DAY, THE SAME MONK CAME TO SEE THE COBRA. HE WAS ASTONISHED AT THE SNAKE'S PLIGHT.



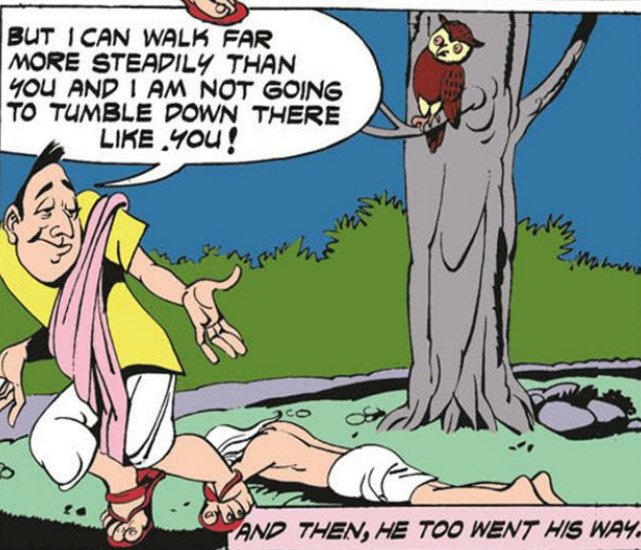
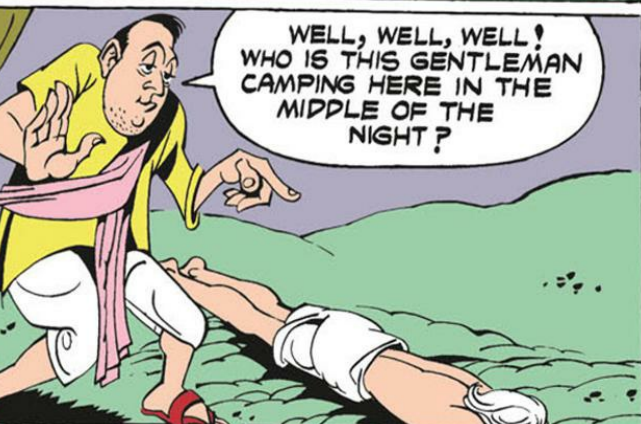
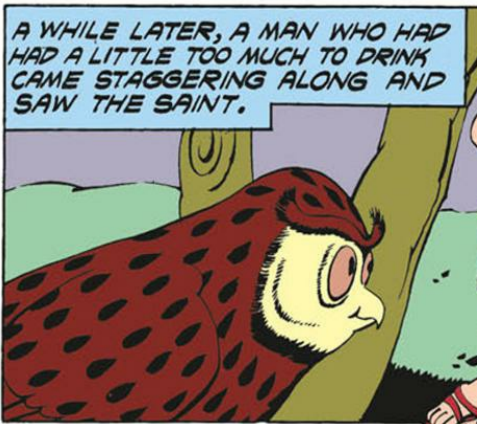
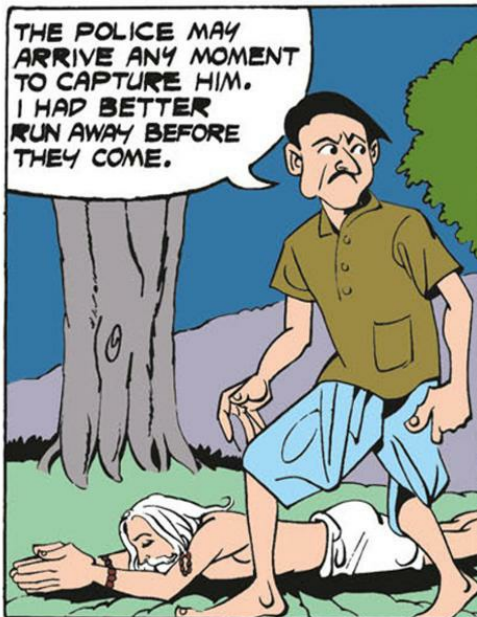










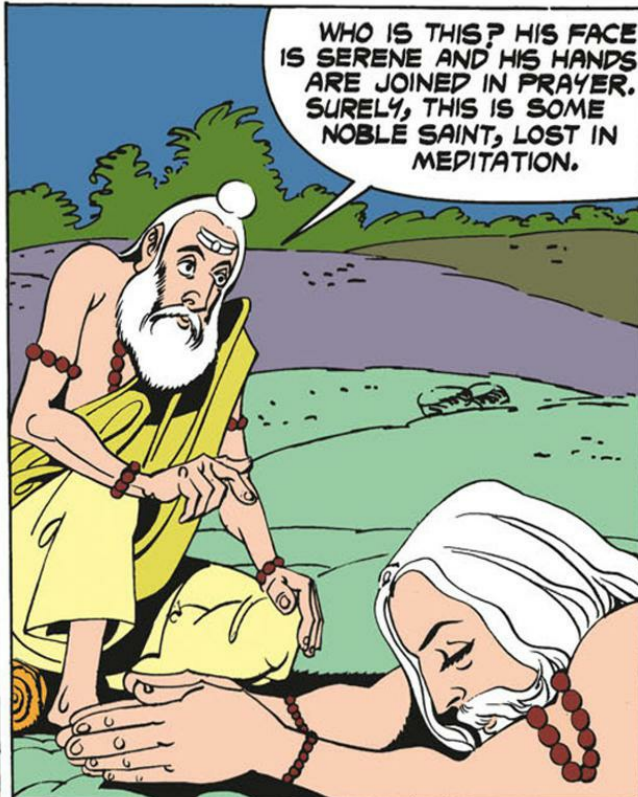




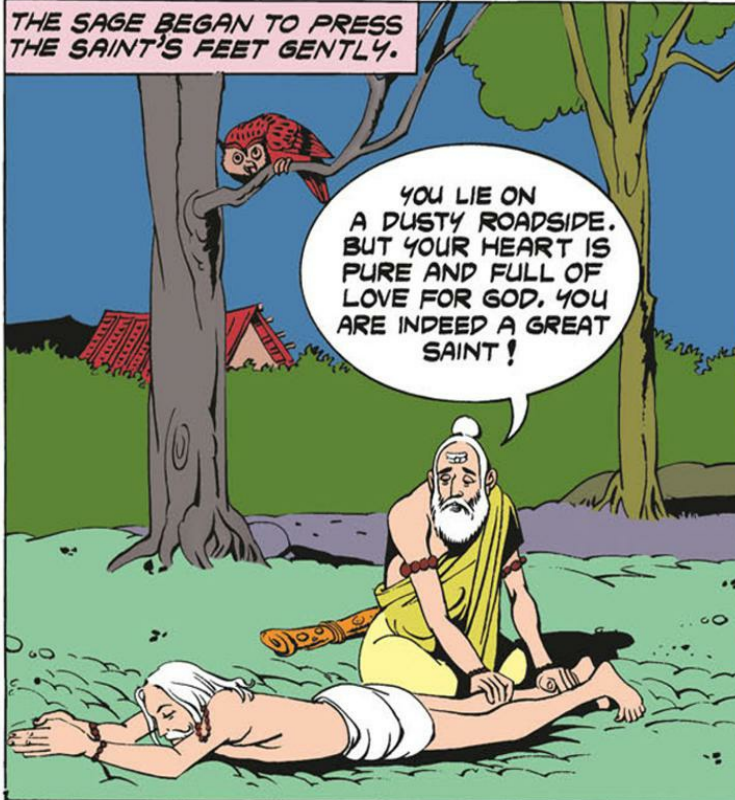
SOON, ANOTHER SAGE CAME THAT WAY.



WHO IS THIS? HIS FACE IS SERENE AND HIS HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER. SURELY, THIS IS SOME NOBLE SAINT, LOST IN MEDITATION.



THE SAGE BEGAN TO PRESS THE SAINT'S FEET GENTLY.



AND SO IS HE. FOR WE SEE IN OTHERS, WHAT WE ARE OURSELVES.





## THE TWO FROGS

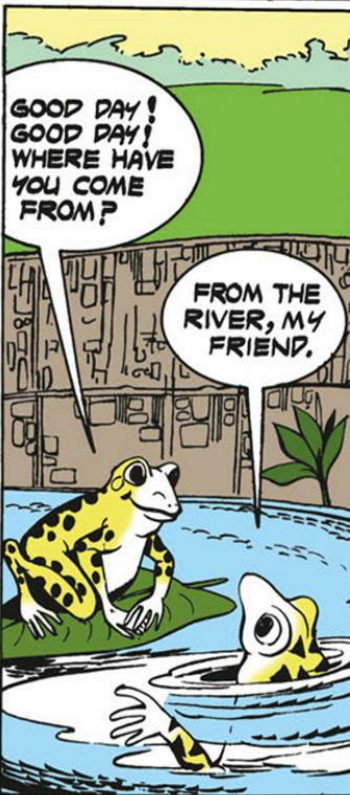


THERE WAS ONCE A FROG WHO LIVED IN A WELL.

HE HAD LIVED IN THIS WELL ALL HIS LIFE AND KNEW VERY LITTLE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



ONE DAY, ANOTHER FROG WHO WAS PASSING THAT WAY FELL INTO THE WELL.



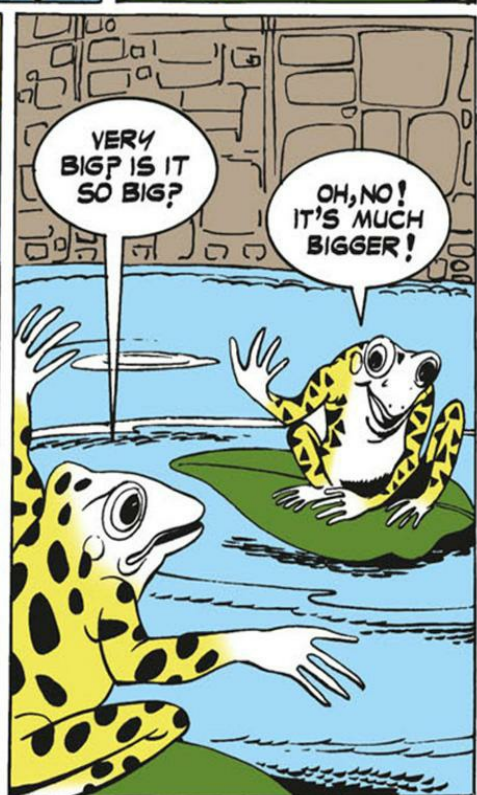
GOOD DAY!  
GOOD DAY!  
WHERE HAVE  
YOU COME  
FROM?

FROM THE  
RIVER, MY  
FRIEND.



THE  
RIVER? WHAT'S  
THAT?

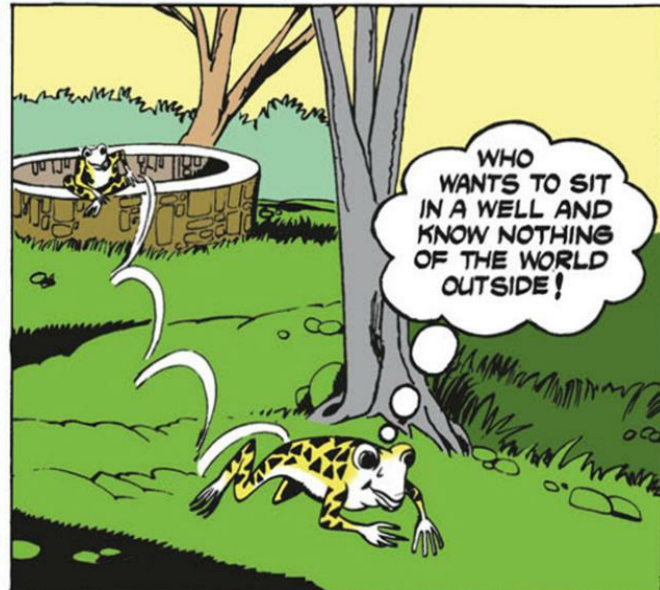
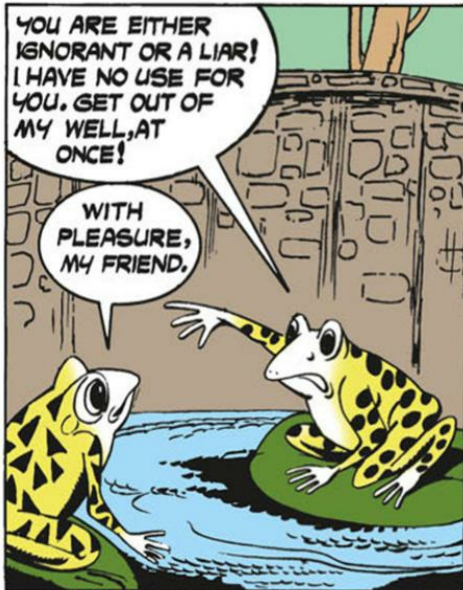
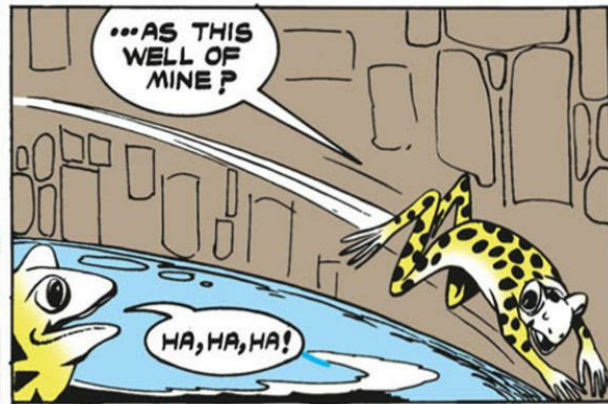
WELL...  
HOW SHALL  
I EXPLAIN IT?  
IT IS VERY,  
VERY BIG!



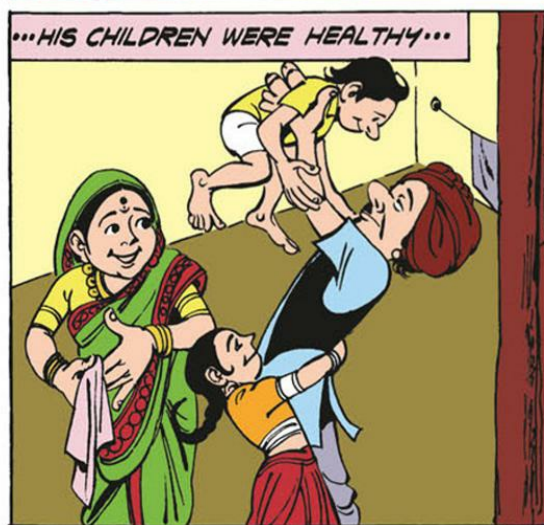
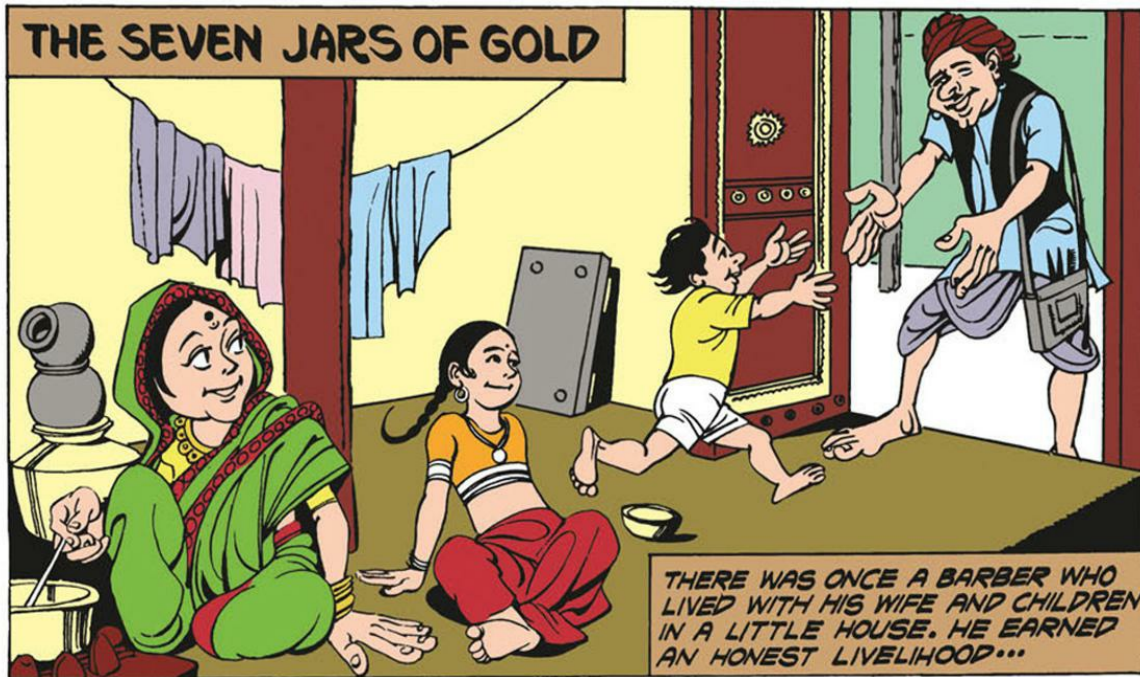
VERY  
BIG? IS IT  
SO BIG?

OH, NO!  
IT'S MUCH  
BIGGER!











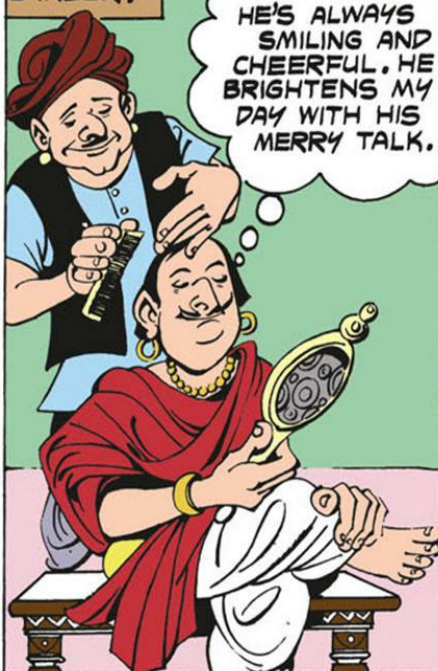
ONE DAY, THE KING OF THE LAND SUMMONED THE BARBER TO HIS PALACE.



THE BARBER RETURNED HOME, FULL OF JOY.



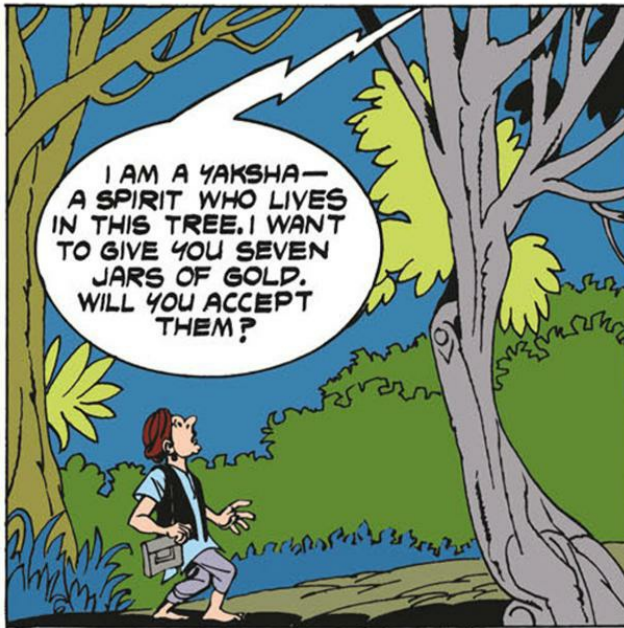
THE BARBER SERVED THE KING WELL AND THE KING IN TURN GREW QUITE FOND OF THE BARBER.



THEN, ONE NIGHT, THE BARBER HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH A FOREST. IT WAS A STILL, DARK NIGHT. SUDDENLY —







I AM A YAKSHA—  
A SPIRIT WHO LIVES  
IN THIS TREE. I WANT  
TO GIVE YOU SEVEN  
JARS OF GOLD.  
WILL YOU ACCEPT  
THEM?

THE BARBER HESITATED FOR  
A MOMENT. THEN—



SEVEN JARS OF  
GOLD! YES! YES! I'LL  
ACCEPT THEM!  
WILLINGLY!

THEN  
GO HOME AT  
ONCE. YOU'LL  
FIND THEM  
THERE.

THE BARBER RAN HOME AS FAST  
AS HIS LEGS COULD CARRY HIM.



AND THERE STOOD THE SEVEN JARS!



AH, YOU'VE COME.  
I NOTICED THESE JARS  
JUST NOW. HOW DID  
THEY GET HERE?

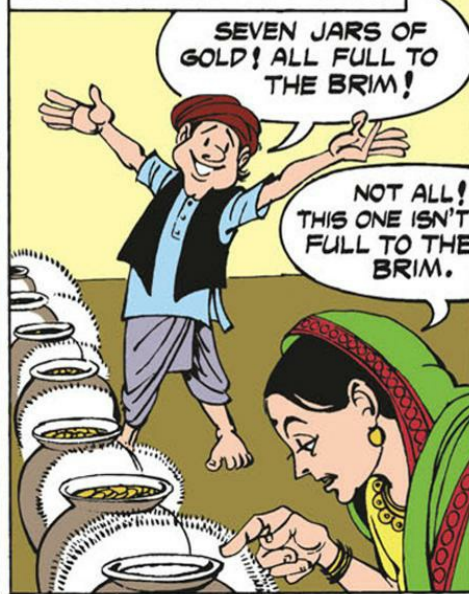


THEY HAVE  
BEEN GIVEN TO ME  
BY A FRIEND.  
QUICK LET'S SEE  
WHAT'S INSIDE.



**GOLD!**

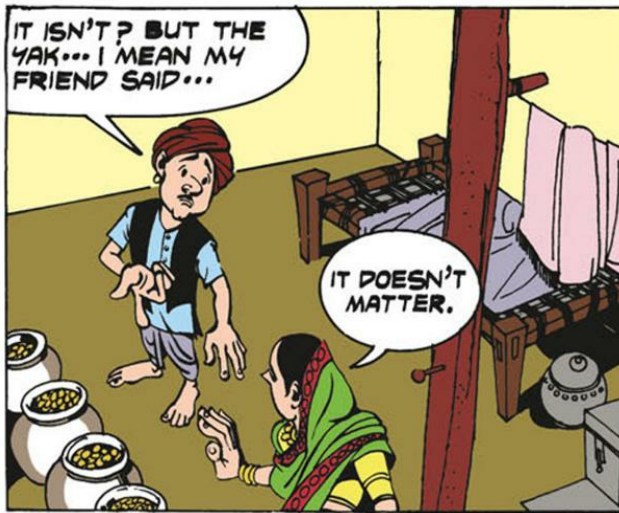
THE BARBER AND HIS WIFE  
UNCOVERED ALL THE JARS.



SEVEN JARS OF  
GOLD! ALL FULL TO  
THE BRIM!

NOT ALL!  
THIS ONE ISN'T  
FULL TO THE  
BRIM.

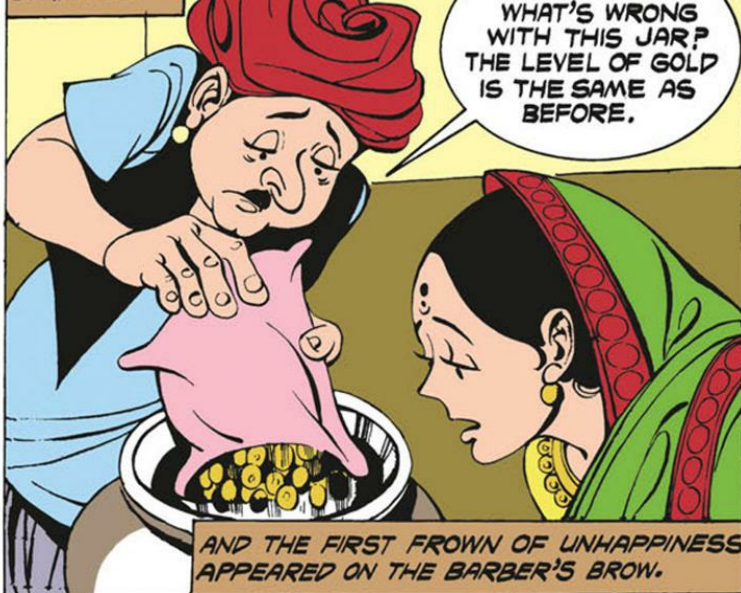




THE BARBER TOOK THE MONEY HE HAD GIVEN HIS WIFE TO RUN THE HOME, EXCHANGED IT FOR GOLD COINS, AND EMPTIED THEM INTO THE SEVENTH JAR. BUT—



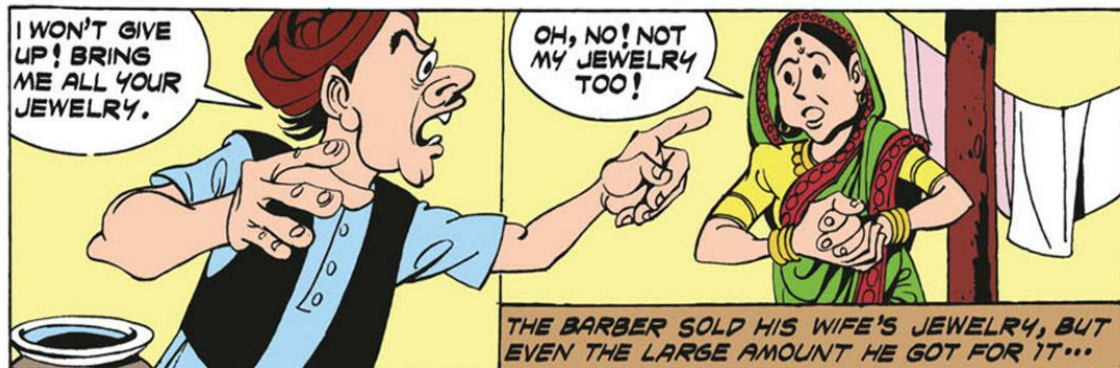
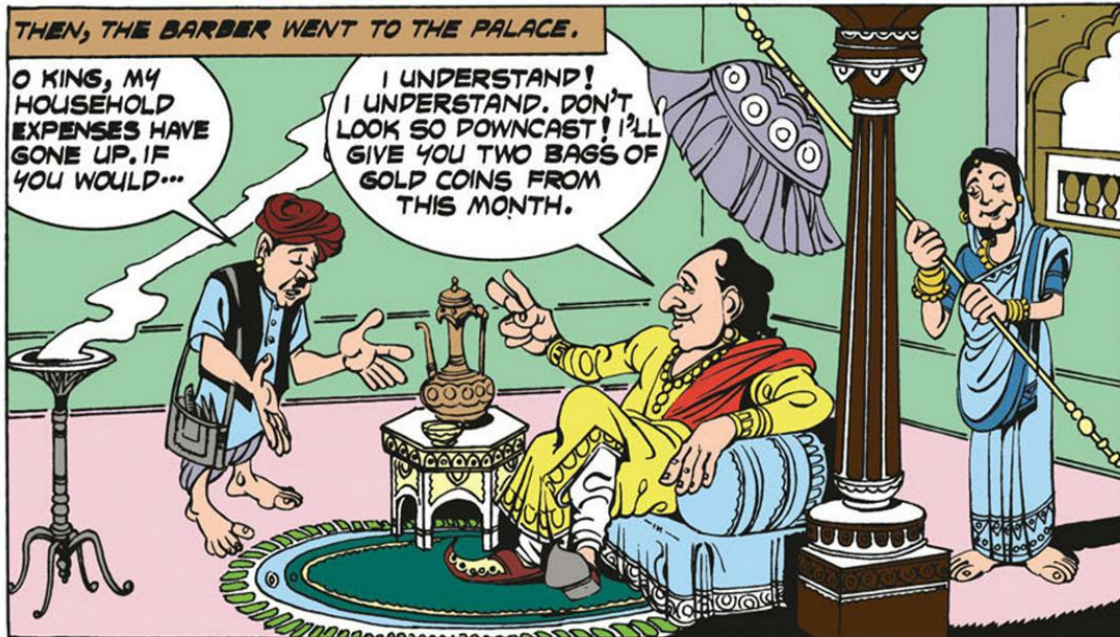
ALL THE MONEY THE BARBER HAD SAVED OVER THE YEARS WAS ALSO PUT INTO THE JAR. BUT, TO THE BARBER'S SURPRISE—



HE BEGAN TO BORROW FROM HIS FRIENDS.



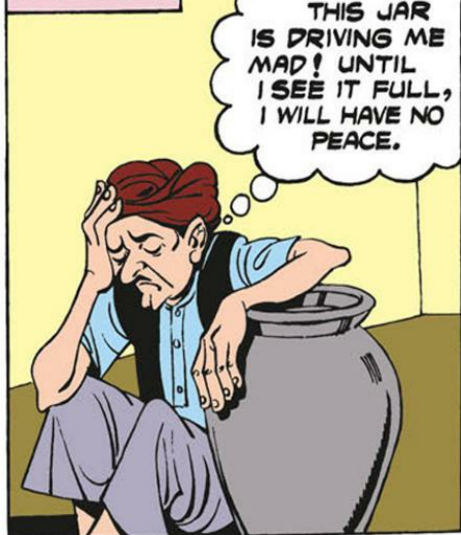






...WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE SEVENTH JAR. THE MORE IT WAS FED, THE GREEDIER IT SEEMED TO BECOME.

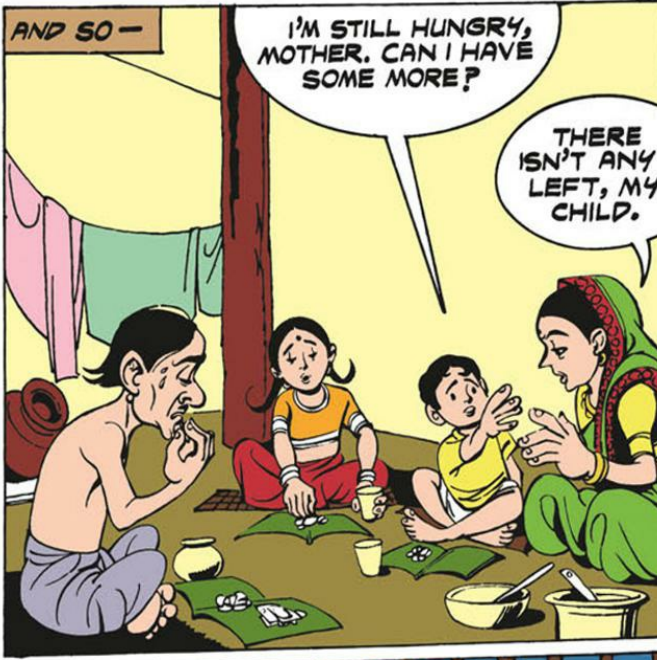
THIS JAR IS DRIVING ME MAD! UNTIL I SEE IT FULL, I WILL HAVE NO PEACE.



AND SO —

I'M STILL HUNGRY, MOTHER. CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

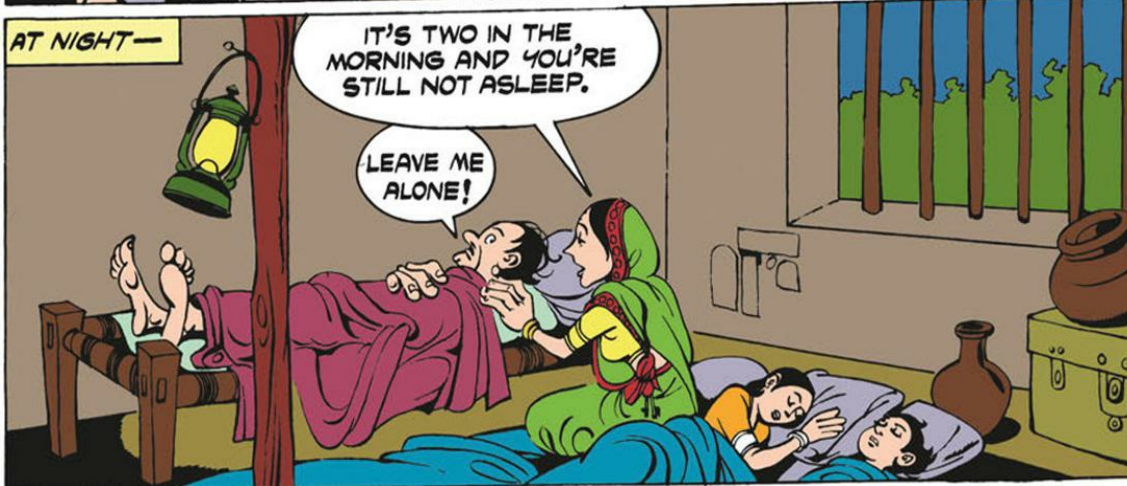
THERE ISN'T ANY LEFT, MY CHILD.



AT NIGHT —

IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING AND YOU'RE STILL NOT ASLEEP.

LEAVE ME ALONE!



IF I SELL THE COW, I'LL GET A GOOD SUM. THE SILVER PLATES WILL ALSO FETCH A GOOD PRICE. I WILL ALSO SELL THE...





AND SO IT WENT ON. EVERY BIT OF MONEY THE BARBER COULD LAY HIS HANDS ON, WENT INTO THE JAR. BUT—

STILL THE SAME LEVEL. OH, GOD! I AM TRULY THE UNHAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



ALL THIS TIME, THE KING HAD BEEN NOTICING THAT THE BARBER WAS NO LONGER HIS OLD HAPPY SELF.

MY GOOD MAN, WHEN I WAS GIVING YOU HALF OF WHAT I GIVE YOU NOW, YOU WERE A CHEERFUL AND CONTENTED MAN.

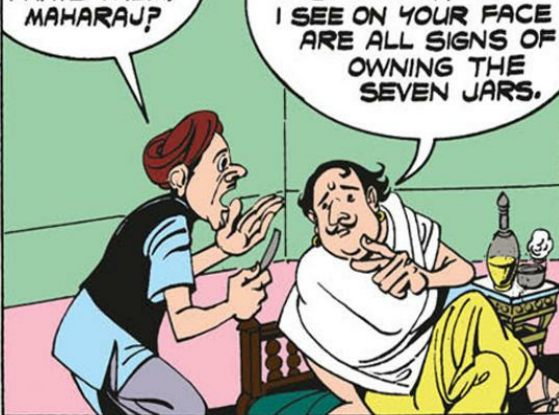


NOW YOUR FACE HAS A PERPETUAL FROWN. YOU SEEM TO BE MISERABLE. HAVE YOU BY ANY CHANCE GOT THE SEVEN JARS?



HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE THEM, MAHARAJ?

THESE SIGNS OF UNHAPPINESS AND DISCONTENT THAT I SEE ON YOUR FACE ARE ALL SIGNS OF OWNING THE SEVEN JARS.



ONE NIGHT IN THE FOREST, THE YAKSHA OFFERED ME THE JARS OF GOLD TOO! I ASKED HIM IF THE GOLD COULD BE GIVEN AWAY OR HAD TO BE HOARDED.

WHAT DID HE SAY?









# THE MAN WHO WANTED TO DIG A WELL

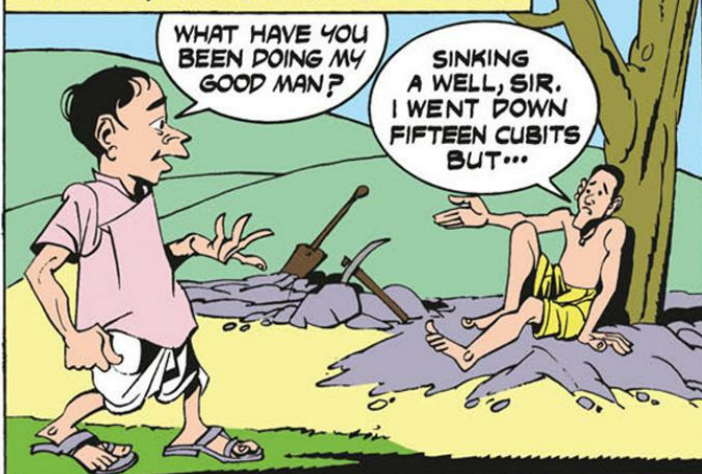


A MAN ONCE SET OUT TO DIG A WELL.

HE SELECTED A GOOD SPOT AND CHEERFULLY SET TO WORK.



JUST THEN, ANOTHER MAN CAME ALONG.



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING MY GOOD MAN?

SINKING A WELL, SIR. I WENT DOWN FIFTEEN CUBITS BUT...

OH! I WISH I HAD PASSED THIS WAY EARLIER. I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHERE TO DIG. ANYWAY, COME WITH ME.

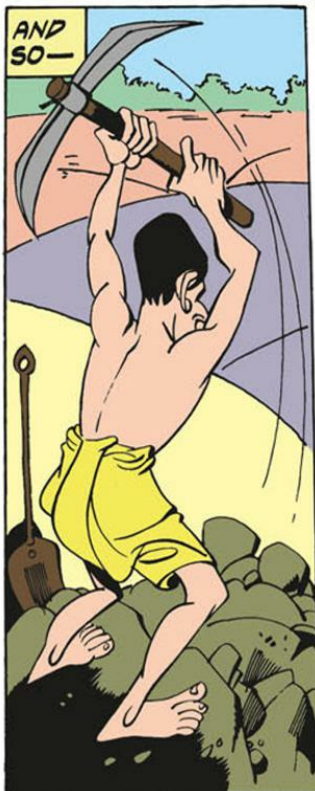






HERE WE ARE! DIG HERE AND I ASSURE YOU, YOU WILL STRIKE WATER WITHIN MINUTES.

THANK YOU, SIR. I WILL START RIGHT AWAY.



AND SO—



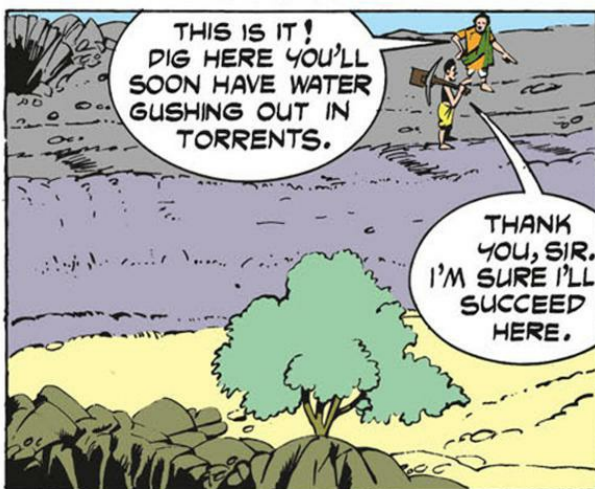
HOURS LATER—

OOOOF! TWENTY CUBITS DEEP! AND HE SAID I WOULD STRIKE WATER WITHIN MINUTES. MINUTES! HAH!



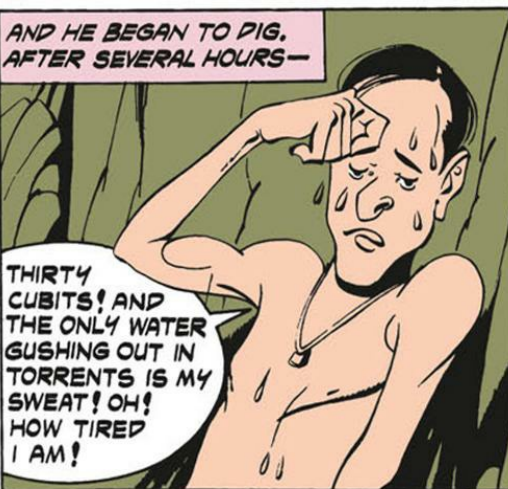
SOON YET ANOTHER MAN CAME ALONG.

DIGGING A WELL, ARE YOU? WHAT MADE YOU DIG HERE, OF ALL PLACES? I KNOW THE BEST SPOT.



THIS IS IT! DIG HERE YOU'LL SOON HAVE WATER GUSHING OUT IN TORRENTS.

THANK YOU, SIR. I'M SURE I'LL SUCCEED HERE.



AND HE BEGAN TO DIG. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS—

THIRTY CUBITS! AND THE ONLY WATER GUSHING OUT IN TORRENTS IS MY SWEAT! OH! HOW TIRED I AM!



THOUGH WATER WAS SCARCE,  
ADVISERS WERE NOT. ON THE  
ADVICE OF ANOTHER PASSERBY...



...THE MAN SUNK TWENTY MORE CUBITS AT  
ANOTHER SPOT.



BUT—

NOT EVEN  
A TRICKLE!  
I AM SICK OF  
THE WHOLE  
BUSINESS!



JUST THEN, A FRIEND CAME  
BY AND HEARD THE WHOLE  
STORY.

...SO, CAN  
YOU IMAGINE,  
I HAVE SUNK  
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS  
ALTOGETHER.

EIGHTY-FIVE  
CUBITS?



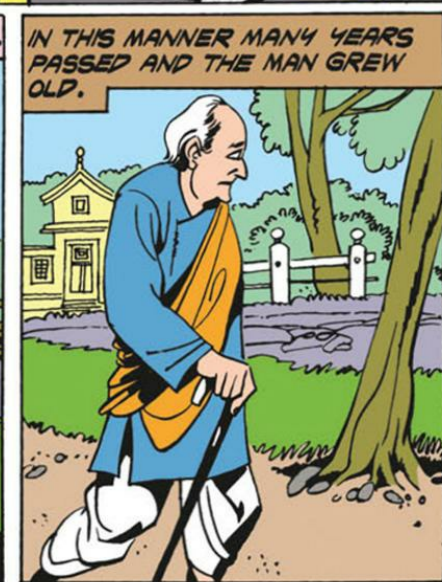
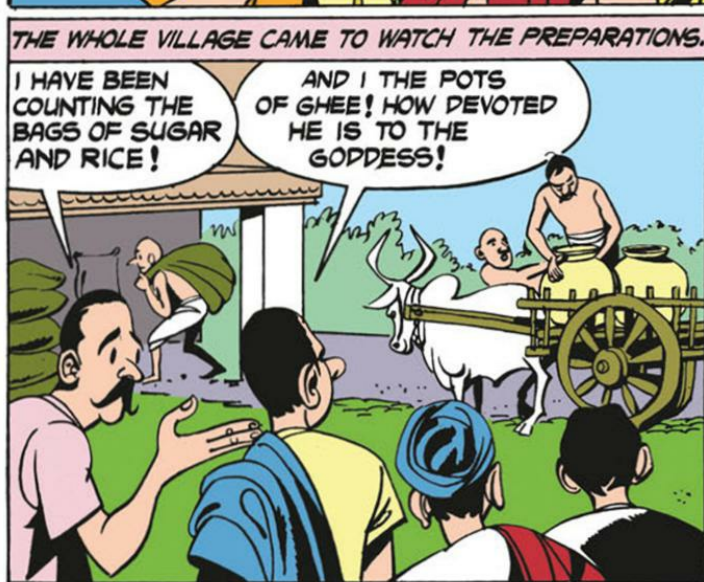
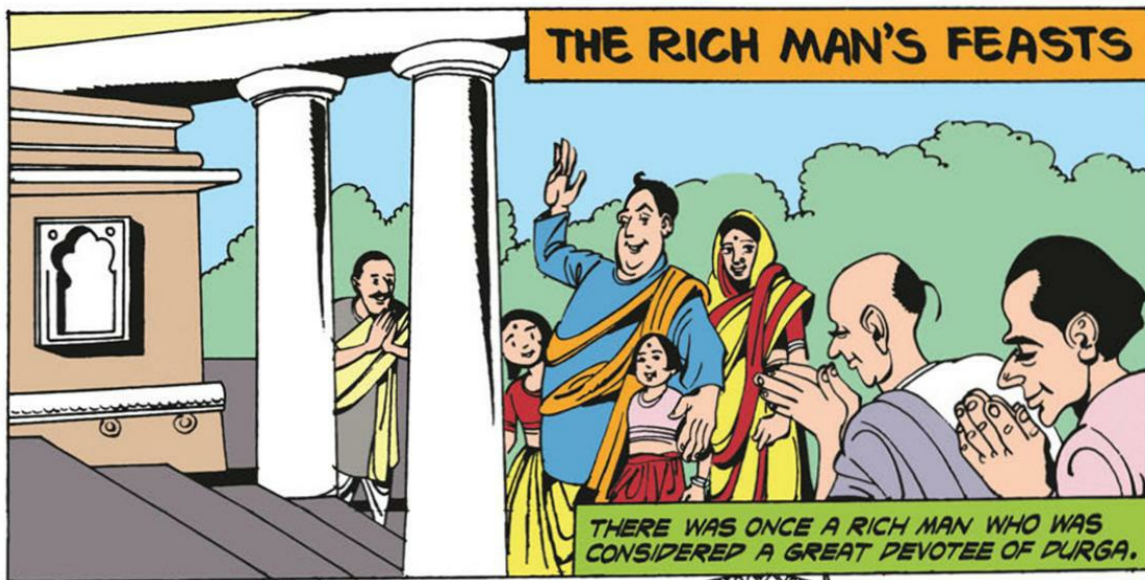
IF YOU HAD SUNK THOSE  
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS IN ONE  
PLACE, YOU WOULD HAVE  
STRUCK WATER ANYWHERE  
IN THIS AREA, EVEN BELOW  
THAT ROCKY SURFACE.



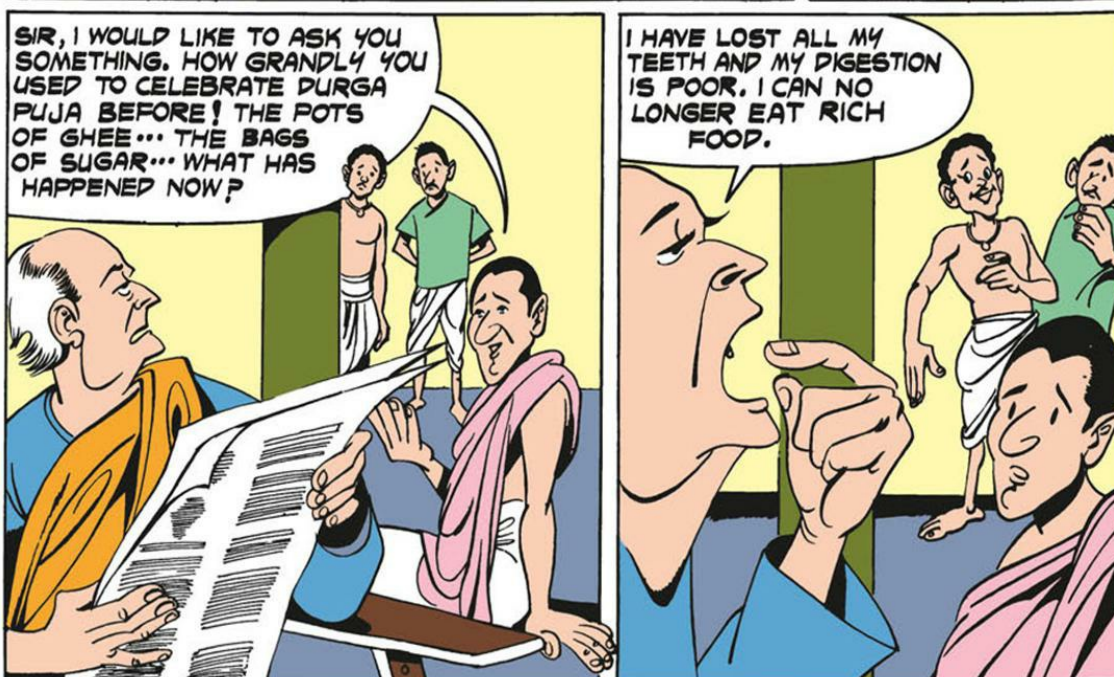
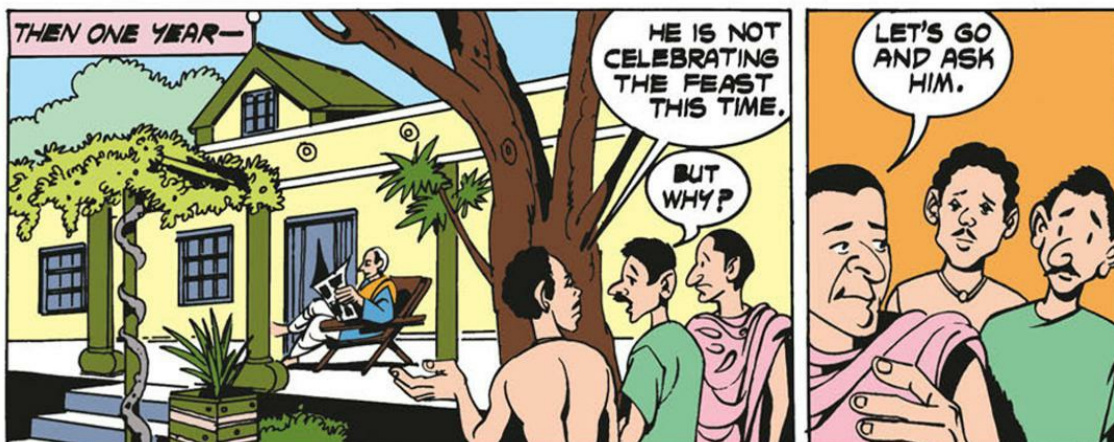
HE'S RIGHT! I HAVE  
LEARNT MY LESSON.  
I'LL START DIGGING  
AGAIN TOMORROW  
AND STICK TO ONE  
SPOT, NO MATTER  
WHAT ANYONE  
SAYS.













## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p><b>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY</b>  <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu  Agastya  Andhaka  Aniruddha  Aruni And Uttanka  Ashwini Kumars  Ayyappan  Bahubali  Bhanumati  Bheema And Hanuman  Bheeshma  Chandrabhasa  Dasharatha  Dhruva And Ashtavakra  Draupadi  Drona  Elephanta  Gandhari  Ganesha  Ganesha And The Moon  Ganga  Garuda  Ghatotkacha  Hanuman  Hanuman To The Rescue  Harischandra  Heroes Of Hampi  Indra And Shachi  Indra And Shibi  Indra And Vritra  Jagannatha Of Puri  Jayadratha  Kacha And Devayani  Karna  Karttikeya  Konark  Krishna  Krishna And Jarasandha  Krishna And Narakasura  Krishna And Rukmini  Krishna And Shishupala  Krishna And The False  Vaasudeva  Kubera  Kumbhakarna  Mahabharata  Mahiravana  Nachiketa  Nahusha  Nala Damayanti  Pareekshit  Parashurama  Prabhavati  Pradyumna  Prahlad  Purushottam Dev And  Padmavati  Rama  Ravana Humbled  Saraswati  Sati And Shiva  Savitri  Shiva Parvati  Stories Of Creation  Subhadra  Sudama  Sukanya  Surya  Tales From The  Upanishads  Tales Of Arjuna  Tales Of Balarama  Tales Of Durga  Tales Of Indra  Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva  Tales Of Vishnu  Tales Of Yudhishtira  Tapati  Thanjavur  The Churning Of The  Ocean  The Gita  The Golden Mongoose  The King In  A Parrot's Body  The Lord Of Lanka  The Pandava Princes  The Pandavas In Hiding  The Parijata Tree  The Sons Of Rama  The Syamantaka Gem  Tirupati  Tripura  Uloopi  Vaishno Devi  Vali  Vishwamitra  Yayati</p> <p><b>VISIONARIES</b>  <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara  Albert Einstein  Anant Pai  Babasaheb Ambedkar  Basaveshwara  Buddha  Chaitanya Mahaprabhu  Chanakya  Chokha Mela  Dayananda  Deshbandhu  Chittaranjan Das  Eknath  Fa Hien  Ghanshyamdas Birla  Guru Arjan  Guru Gobind Singh  Guru Har Gobind  Guru Nanak  Guru Tegh Bahadur  Hiuen Tsang  J.R.D Tata  Jagadis Chandra Bose  Jamsetji Tata  Jawaharlal Nehru  Jayaprakash Narayan  Jim Corbett  Jnaneshwar  Kabir  Kalidasa  Lal Bahadur Shastri  Lokmanya Tilak  M. S. Subbulakshmi  Madhvacharya  Mahavira  Marie And Pierre Curie  Megasthenes  Mirabai  Mother Teresa  Narayan Guru  Rabindranath Tagore  Ram Shastri  Ramana Maharshi  Ramanuja  Salim Ali  Shankar Dev  Soordas  Sri. Ramakrishna  Srinivasa Ramanujan  Subramania Bharati</p>	<p>Swami Chinmayananda  Swami Pranavananda  Tales Of Sai Baba  Tansen  Tulsidas  Vidyasagar  Vivekananda  Zarathushtra</p> <p><b>INDIAN CLASSICS</b>  <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <p>Ananda Math  Ancestors Of Rama  Devi Choudhurani  Durgesh Nandini  Kadambari  Kannagi  Kapala Kundala  Kumanan  Maarthaanda Varma  Malavika  Manonmani  Prince Jivaka  Raj Singh  Ratnavali  Shakuntala  The Adventures Of  Pratapana  The Elusive Kaka  Udayana  Urvashi  Vasantasena  Vasavadatta  Veer Dhaval</p> <p><b>FABLES AND HUMOUR</b>  <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <p>A Bag Of Gold Coins  Amrapali  Andher Nagari  Angulimala  Bikal The Terrible  <b>BIRBAL STORIES</b>  Birbal The Clever  Birbal The Genius  Birbal The Just  Birbal The Wise  Birbal The Witty  Birbal To The Rescue  The Inimitable Birbal  Chandralalal  Dhola And Maru  Friends And Foes  Gopal And The Cowherd  Gopal The Jester  <b>HITOPADESHA TALES</b>  Choice Of Friends  How Friends Are Parted  Hothal  <b>JATAKA TALES</b>  Battle Of Wits  Bird Stories  Deer Stories  Elephant Stories  Jackal Stories  Monkey Stories  Nandi Vishala  Stories Of Courage  Stories Of Wisdom  Tales Of Misers  The Deadly Feast  The Giant And  The Dwarf  The Hidden Treasure  The Magic Chant</p>	<p>The Mouse Merchant  True Friends  Kanwal And Kehar  Kesari The Flying Thief  King Kusha  Manduka</p> <p><b>PANCHATANTRA TALES</b>  Crows And Owls  How The Jackal Ate  The Elephant  The Brahmin And  The Goat  The Dullard  The Greedy Mother-in-law  The Jackal And  The Wardrum  Raman Of Tenali  Raman The Matchless Wit  Sahasramalla  Sakshi Gopal  Satwant Kaur  Sharan Kaur  Shrenik  Sukhu And Dukhu  Sundari  Tales Of Maryada Rama  The Acrobat  The Adventures  Of Agad Datta  The Adventures Of  Baddu And Chhotu  The Bridegroom's Ring  The Celestial Necklace  The Clever Dancer  The Cowherd Of Alawi  The Fearless Boy  The Fool's Disciples  The Golden Sand  The Green Demon  The Unhappy Tiger  The Learned Pandit  The Lost Prince  The Magic Grove  The Miraculous Conch  The Mystery Of  The Missing Gift  The Pandit And The  Milkmaid  The Pig And The Dog  The Pious Cat  The Priceless Gem  The Prince And  The Magician  The Prophecy  The Queen's Necklace  The Rainbow Prince  The Secret Of The  Talking Bird  The Silent Teacher  The Tiger And The  Woodpecker  The Tiger Eater  Thugsen  Vidyut Chora  Vikramaditya's Throne</p> <p><b>BRAVEHEARTS</b>  <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <p>A Nation Awakes  Ahilyabai Holkar  Ajatashatru  Akbar  Amar Singh Rathor  Ashoka  Babur  Bagha Jatin  Bajirao I</p>	<p>Baladitya And  Yashodharma  Balban  Banda Bahadur  Bappa Rawal  Beni Madho And Pir Ali  Bhagat Singh  Bidhi Chand  Bimbisara  Chand Bibi  Chandra Shekhar Azad  Chandragupta Maurya  Chennamma Of Keladi  Dara Shukho And  Aurangzeb  Durgadas  Ellora Caves  Hakka And Bukka  Hari Singh Nalwa  Harsha  Hemu  Humayun  Jahangir  Jallianwala Bagh  Kalpana Chawla  Kochunni  Krishnadeva Raya  Kunwar Singh  Lachit Barphukan  Lalitaditya  Mangal Pande  Noor Jahan  Padmini  Panna And Hadi Rani  Paurava And Alexander  Prithviraj Chauhan  Raja Bhoja  Raja Raja Chola  Rana Kumbha  Rana Pratap  Rana Sanga  Rani Abbakka  Rani Durgavati  Rani Of Jhansi  Ranjit Singh  Rash Bihari Bose  Roopmati  Sambhaji  Samudra Gupta  Sea Route To India  Shah Jahan  Shalivahana  Shantala  Sher Shah  Shivaji  Subhas Chandra Bose  Sultana Razia  Surjya Sen  Tachcholi Othenan  Tales Of Shivaji  Tanaji  Tenzing Norgay  The Historic City Of Delhi  The Rani Of Kittur  Tipu Sultan  Veer Hammir  Veer Savarkar  Velu Thampi  Vikramaditya</p> <p><b>CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS</b>  <i>(New Category)  The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <p>The Blue Umbrella</p>
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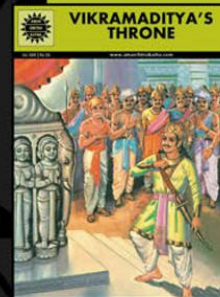
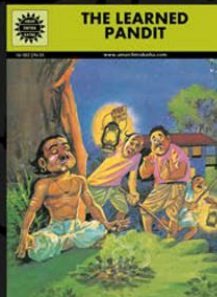


## FABLES & HUMOUR

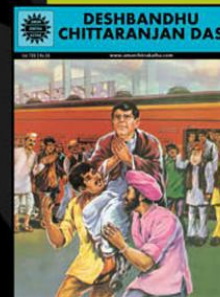
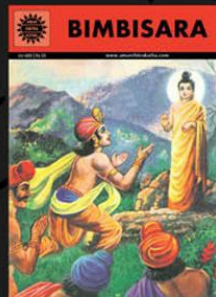
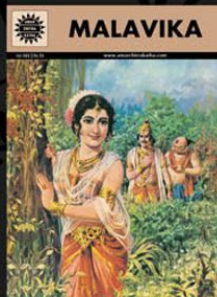
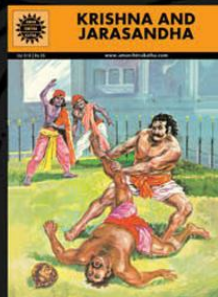
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